

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow

Straight bat
Times Profile of
England captain
David Gower
The buck stops here
An American
tourist
in London
King and country
James Fenton reviews
a biography
of Lord Kitchener
Off the tracks
Miles Kingston rails
against the
inaction of strikes

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was won yesterday by Mr Ernest G. Watson of Leobury, Herefordshire. Portfolio list, page 14. How to play, back page Information Service.

Britain in the black by £444m

Britain's balance of payments improved sharply last month to a £444 million surplus, as the deficit on visible trade fell £160 million to £56 million. Imports were down £365 million at £6.38 billion, their lowest for a year, and exports fell £205 million to £6.324 billion (Page 15)

Ammonia leak

Thirteen people were taken to hospital after a leaking tank of ammonia sent fumes through Bradford City Centre. The main bus and train station was evacuated.

Teachers strike

Scottish secondary schools are being disrupted by a teachers' strike and, in England and Wales, a teachers' union has promised selective strikes from October (Page 2)

Genetic disease

Complex social implications are raised by the successful use of gene probes for diagnosing inherited diseases early in pregnancy, the British Association was told (Page 4)

113 to go free

Israel will free 113 Lebanese detainees today, leaving about 150 of the 1,200 transferred to Aitah prison camp during the withdrawal from Lebanon in April.

Early launch

Astronauts onboard the shuttle Discovery launched an Australian communications satellite 24 hours ahead of schedule to save it from damage after a sun shield stuck open (Shuttle snag, page 5)



Live match

The World Cup qualifying tie between Wales and Scotland on September 10 is to be shown live on television throughout Britain, ITV announced yesterday (Page 19)

Leader page, 11
Letters: On moral contrasts, from Mr N. Walter, and others; Mirror dispute, from Mr M. Molloy and others; design, from Mr J. Piddich.
Leading articles: Greenpeace; Nigeria. Features, pages 8-10
Nationalization without tears: Bernard Levin does the Kremlin in a favour; incident at Notting Hill. Spectrum: the 1992 Olympic contest. Wednesday Page: fostering across the colour line. Obituary, page 12
The Very Rev A. C. Craig: Professor Robert Milnes Walker. Classified, pages 21-26
Property: La crème de la crème

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Bloodless coup ousts Nigeria's president

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Major-General Ibrahim Babangida was named Nigeria's new president and commander of the armed forces last night after an apparently bloodless military coup which toppled the 20-month-old administration of Major-General Muhammad Buhari.

The coup was brought to a head by General Buhari's failure to revitalize the country's oil-based economy which has been badly affected by the drop in world oil prices over the past three years.

According to diplomatic sources, the coup was undertaken to pre-empt a move by more junior officers who had become increasingly restive at the government's failure to tackle the country's economic problems.

General Babangida, who was chief of army staff and a member of the 14-man ruling Supreme Military Council under General Buhari, is known to enjoy wide support among the armed forces.

He is a Muslim and, unlike most other members of the



General Babangida: wide support in armed forces

military council, comes from the northern part of the country.

The coup was also the result of a power struggle within the military council between General Babangida and Major-General Tunde Idiagbon, General Buhari's deputy and widely regarded as the Government's strongman. General Idiagbon left Nigeria at the weekend for a week-long pilgrimage to Mecca.

General Buhari had been in ill-health recently and much of his work had been done by General Idiagbon, who functioned as an unofficial prime minister.

General Buhari's whereabouts were unknown last night although he was believed to have been at the State House in Lagos at the time of the coup.

Three Scorpion light tanks and one larger tank were seen outside the Dodan Barracks, where the State House is situated, yesterday.

The coup was announced over Lagos Radio yesterday morning by Brigadier Joshua Dogan Yaro, a senior armoured corps officer and a friend of General Babangida, who accused the Buhari administration of failing to fulfil Nigerians' hopes.

In a message that was broadcast repeatedly throughout the day Brigadier Dogan Yaro accused the military council of concentrating power in the hands of a selected few who abused their authority and regarded anyone who offered advice as disloyal.

"In such a situation, if action can be taken to arrest further deterioration, it should and

Continued on back page, col 2

Troubled quarter-century

Milestones in Nigerian history: 1960 - Independence from Britain. 1966 - Civilian rule comes to an end with the overthrow and death of Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, federal prime minister. Major-General Aguiyi-Ironsi sets up Supreme Military Council. Ironsi killed six months later. Succeeded by Colonel (later General) Yakubu Gowon. 1967-1970 - Civil war between Nigeria and the secessionist "republic" of Biafra.

1975 - Gowon overthrown in a bloodless coup. Succeeded by General Murtala Mohammed. 1976 - Mohammed killed in abortive coup. Succeeded by General Olusegun Obasanjo. 1980 - Obasanjo hands over to President Shehu Shagari. Civilian rule restored. 1983 - Chagari overthrown in a military coup led by General Muhammad Buhari. 1985 - Buhari overthrown in coup led by General Ibrahim Babangida.

British Star Wars role nearer

From Rodney Cowton, Washington

Agreement on terms for British participation in the American Star Wars research programme is likely to be reached this autumn. Talks are continuing on several levels with officials trying to agree on a broad framework for British involvement while efforts are made to define more clearly the technical areas for possible British activity.

Dr Gerald Yonas, acting Deputy Director and chief scientist of the Strategic Defence Initiative office, said in Washington that British strengths covered a very wide range. There was practically no area of the research programme where there was no British capability.

He said he was hopeful that substantial progress would be made in the next month, with meetings in London and Washington.

Among the broad areas of research in which Britain might make a contribution Dr Yonas mentioned sensors, computer hardware and software techniques, advanced materials, power supplies and lasers.

Responding to suggestions that effective defence would be more difficult to achieve against the shorter range missiles that were targeted on Europe, than against the inter-continental missiles aimed at America, he said in many cases a solution against shorter range weapons might be easier because they were a simpler threat.

Their flight path was lower and slower, and it was made within the atmosphere and without decoys.

Both Britain and America recognize the need to agree on the terms of British involvement in SDI research on the exchange of technological information and the extent to which individuals involved should have access to classified information.

But there appear to be differences over deciding a possible work programme. When Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, visited the American Defence Department last month he is believed to have put forward proposals for a British involvement worth more than £699 million.

'Floating skyscrapers' challenge to Britain's liners

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

A new generation of giant cruise ships is to challenge Britain's QE2, Canberra, and Royal Princess within five years.

A 70,000 tonner - bigger than the QE2 has been ordered by Norway's Royal Caribbean Line (RCL), and this week the rival Norwegian Caribbean Line (NCL) is expected to approve purchase of a 90,000-tonner, bigger than the old Queen Elizabeth, at \$3,000 million the biggest liner yet built.

Even more remarkable than the size of the new Norwegian ships is their cost and carrying capacity. The RCL ship is to cost \$175 million (£123 million) and carry 2,500 passengers; and the NCL \$250m-\$300m with 3,000 passengers.

That compares with about 2,000 passengers for the QE2 and the Queen Elizabeth and a £30 million price tag for the former. Britain's newest cruise ship, P & O's Royal Princess, cost £150 million and carries 1,200 passengers.

British yards are unlikely to feature in the new building boom. The RCL order has gone to France; and the NCL ship, with an option for a sister, is expected to go to Finland, Sweden, or West Germany.

The Orders spring from extensive growth in the United States cruise market, which is expected to continue. Growth has been about 11-13 per cent a year and reached 1.6 million cruise passengers last year



Manchester fire victim Lindsey Elliott, who opened her eyes for the first time since the disaster during the royal visit, with the Princess of Wales at her bedside yesterday

Royal visit spurs fire victim to open eyes

By Colin Hughes

A hospital visit from the Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday spurred a teenage survivor of the Boeing 737 fire at Manchester airport to her first signs of recovery.

Miss Lindsey Elliott, aged 13, who lost her mother, aunt and uncle in the blaze, opened her eyes for the first time since last Thursday's accident to find the Prince and Princess taking turns to sit at her bedside.

Nurses said afterwards that the royal visit was a welcome catalyst to helping Lindsey overcome the shock.

The royal couple met all seven survivors still being treated at Wythenshawe hospital, Manchester, for the effects of inhaling black smoke and fumes during the few seconds in which fire swept through the rear of the aircraft on Ringway airport's main runway.

On hearing of her family's deaths, Lindsey, from Heswall, Wirral, shut her eyes and stayed that way until yesterday. Her father, who was separated from her mother and now lives in the United States, flew to see her, but nurses still could not bring her to talk.

Miss Janet Edwards, a Wythenshawe nursing officer, said: "She hadn't responded to anything. It was as if she was trying to reject the whole situation." Lindsey was badly injured, and spent her first three days on a ventilator to aid breathing.

The Prince and Princess broke their holiday at Balmoral to fly to Manchester, and went on to Whithorn hospital near by where another two survivors were still unconscious in intensive care.

Prince Charles, who flew the Queen's flight Andover himself, advised another survivor to overcome her fears flying again quickly.

Conservative support in the north, Scotland, the northern region, the North-west, Yorkshire and Humberside, since July.

The Alliance had increased its support by four points and had established its first clear lead over the Tories in the north.

In the north, MORI's August poll gave Labour 44 per cent, the Alliance 29 per cent and the Tories 22 per cent, compared with general election figures, for the north, of Labour, 36 per cent, Conservative, 37 per cent, and the Alliance 25 per cent.

But one of the most marked changes was the northern swing, which showed a further fall of four percentage points in

British aircraft to be grounded for engine checks

Urgent checks were ordered last night on jet engines similar to the one which caused the Manchester disaster.

The order follows the discovery of "extensive cracking" in combustion chambers in the same type of engine on other British aircraft.

The checks, ordered by the Civil Aviation Authority, will mean some aircraft being grounded until they are cleared and others returning empty from abroad.

The order relates to certain Pratt and Whitney JT80 engines which have had a manufacturer's modification, and have flown a certain number of hours.

The authority said that preliminary investigation indicated "combustion chamber deterioration" had led to the Manchester holiday jet engine exploding.

The blast ruptured a fuel tank in the wing and started a blaze which killed 34 people.

The authority has ordered visual checks, which require the engine to be stripped down, or X-ray analysis, which British Airways has already begun.

The speed of the checks will depend on a complex formula involving the engine's use, but some aircraft will not be allowed to make another flight until they are complete.

About a dozen aircraft already abroad will have to return to the UK without passengers for the work to be carried out.

The authority said: "Preliminary investigation of the Manchester Boeing 737 accident indicates that combustion chamber deterioration could have caused over-heating of the combustion chamber, outer casing leading to its failure."

"Subsequent checks made into engines have revealed various combustion chambers with extensive cracking to the cooling rings and chamber heads."

British Cal-donian said last night that their operations were unaffected as they do not have any 737s in their fleet.

British Airways Boeing 747 fleet was yesterday given the all clear after checks on the tails of all 29 aircraft.

Print union leaders meet

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The leadership of the National Graphical Association meets today in an attempt to defuse the crisis which has halted Mirror Group Newspapers.

The company's papers have not been published since Friday after an announcement by Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, that type-setting for the *Sporting Life* would be transferred away from the Holborn Circus headquarters.

NCA members took action in protest at the announcement last Wednesday and Mr Maxwell halted publication the following night.

Meanwhile, Mr Tony Dubbins, general secretary of the NGA, was last night addressing his members at the Thomson plant, Witby Grove, Chester, where the northern editions of the Daily Mirror are printed. NGA machine managers defied an injunction on Monday night, according to MGN, which called on them to produce the northern editions of the paper.

If the northern issue of the Daily Mirror is not printed today, Mr Maxwell is likely to take further legal action.

Letters, page 11

Tory support in north drops by a third

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Conservative support in the north, Scotland, the northern region, the North-west, Yorkshire and Humberside, since July.

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Northern Conservative support logged by MORI in January was 34 per cent, and their subsequent 12 per cent drop point fall has helped to build up the Alliance in an area which returned 89 Conservative MPs.

Labour was also leading in the Midlands, according to MORI, with 36 per cent, compared to the Conservatives' 33 per cent and the Alliance 30 per cent. In the south, the Tories led with 39 per cent, the Alliance came second with 34 per cent, and Labour was third with 26 per cent.



A model of the NCL's Phoenix, showing the kind of design the proposed 3,000-passenger ship will follow

compared with 85,000 in the sluggish British market.

"There is huge growth potential in the US cruise market," Mr Ken Page, director of the London-based Passenger Shipping Association said yesterday. "Fewer than 2 per

cent of American overseas holidaymakers have yet been on a cruise."

After the Queen Elizabeth, the next biggest passenger ship to date was her older sister the Queen Mary at 81,000 tons, followed by the *Normandie*

(79,000), the France (now the Norway, 70,000) the QE2 (66,000), and the United States (63,000).

Norwegian owners dismiss the idea of congestion and claustrophobia among the more than 4,000 people including crew, who may be on their new ships. The answer they believe, is to break the interior into smaller areas. An even bigger NCL project than this week's 90,000 tonner, the 250,000-ton "Phoenix" project now shelved would have carried 5,000 passengers. The ship would have been in effect a floating island with four "skyscraper blocks", each with more than 1,000 passengers and separate facilities. The new ship will follow a similar concept.

Cunard said yesterday that it had no plans to enter the race

Boesak is arrested on eve of march

From Our Correspondents in Cape Town and Johannesburg

The Rev Allan Boesak, the South African civil rights activist and President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, was arrested yesterday, but his lawyers said this would not deter a mass march he planned to lead today.

The march to Pollsmoor prison, at Tokai, near Cape Town, to deliver a message to the imprisoned African National Congress leader, Mr Nelson Mandela. The Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis Le Grange, has declared it to be illegal and has promised to deal with it very firmly.

Dr Boesak was arrested yesterday afternoon at a road block just outside Cape Town. The South African Council of Churches, of which Dr Boesak is senior Vice-President, expressed its "deep dismay and concern" over his arrest. It said it could only intensify bitterness and might generate violence. The Council appealed "to all concerned that they may be calm and do not respond with any acts of anger."

Dr Beyers Naudé, the Afrikaner rebel cleric and Secretary-General of the South African Council of Churches, was believed to be heading for Cape Town last night and may lead the march in Dr Boesak's place.

Mr Essa Moosa, Dr Boesak's lawyer, said the march on Pollsmoor prison "is the people's march, not Dr Boesak's march and it will go ahead."

He was on his way to the Coloured University of the Western Cape after hearing that 17 students had been arrested during a campus demonstration.

In Zurich, Dr Edmond Perret, General secretary of the World Council of Churches, said he would fly immediately to South Africa and was waiting for authorization from the South African Government to meet Dr Boesak.

Dr Boesak has been detained under a section of the Internal Security Act which empowers the police to hold people indefinitely for interrogation and without any access to lawyers.

The police clamped down yesterday on information about black township unrest and said that in future they will issue only one daily "situation report" at 8am. Until now they have been issuing three reports a day. Lists of people detained and released under the five-week-old state of emergency will be issued only once a week instead of daily.

● WASHINGTON: The United States has formally protested to the South African Government about the arrest of Dr Boesak, the State Department spokesman said yesterday (Motsini Ali writes).

France orders spying inquiry

From Diana Geddes Paris

M. Laurent Fabius, the French Prime Minister, has called for an investigation on important "shortcomings" in the running of the French foreign intelligence service, as revealed by the Tricot report on the sinking of the Greenpeace boat the Rainbow Warrior, in New Zealand last month.

Greenpeace, the international ecologist movement opposed to French nuclear testing in the south Pacific, has condemned the report as "an insult to the people of New Zealand, an insult to the family of Fernando Pessoa (the Portuguese-born photographer killed in the bomb attack on the boat), an insult to the people of the Pacific, and an insult to world opinion."

In his first public statement on the report, which he received on Sunday, M Fabius yesterday confirmed the revelation that French secret service agents had been engaged in a "surveillance mission in connection with French nuclear tests in the Pacific", but insisted that he had no information "at this stage" which would contradict the conviction expressed by M Bernard Tricot, the report's author, that none of the French undercover agents on the



M Laurent Fabius in Paris yesterday

surveillance mission was involved in the attack on the Rainbow Warrior, nor had they received any such instructions. The report had, nevertheless, revealed "important shortcomings" in the running of the French foreign intelligence service, he said. Questions still remained, he had therefore asked the Defence Minister, M Charles Hernu, who is responsible for the DGSE, the French equivalent of Britain's MI6, for a detailed examination of the shortcomings and to recommend remedies.

All democratic countries needed intelligence services, he said. But they must be controlled. "The situation in this respect (in France) does not appear to be satisfactory," he said. He had told the Defence Minister and the Minister for the Interior, who is responsible

Continued on back page, col 5

THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY
Quality in an age of change

Teachers' strikes resume as more action is pledged

By Ronald Faux

Secondary schools throughout Scotland were disrupted yesterday by the start of a three-day teachers' strike. The Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association launched its latest action pressing the Government for an independent pay review when members in Glasgow, Lanark, Tayside and central Scotland refused to work.

Meanwhile leaders of Britain's second largest teachers' union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers announced yesterday that its members will be taking selective strike action in all 104 local education authorities in England and Wales from October.

The NASTA represents 30 per cent of Scottish teachers and strikes have been called today and tomorrow at all secondary schools from Dumfries to the Highlands.

The education of thousands of children will be interrupted as members of the Educational Institute for Scotland, the largest of the Scottish teachers' unions, have refused to stand in for the striking association members.

The institute and the association have been pressing for an independent review for the past year and intend to step up their disruptive action unless the Government allows a review or makes an acceptable pay offer.

Mr Alec Stanley, General Secretary of the association said yesterday that more than 85 per cent of his members had not worked in the selected schools. He said: "Any objective exam-

Fears rise for total railway shutdown

By Barrie Clement
Labour Reporter

The prospect of a complete rail shutdown will move nearer today if, as is strongly expected, the National Union of Railworkers announces a vote for industrial action by 11,000 guards in protest at driver-only trains.

The executive of the NUR is likely to use the poll result later today to draw up a programme of disruption which will mean widespread cancellation of trains but fall short of an immediate all-out strike.

The British Rail Board yesterday repeated its warning that if management could not maintain a "recognizable and reliable" service they would close the network themselves.

Board officials also reiterated they would attempt to introduce one-man trains on Monday to the sensitive Worsley-Sheffield coal "mercy-go-round" in Nottinghamshire, which was hit by stoppages in the miners' strike.

Management will also go ahead on Monday with its plan to increase from one to seven the number of driver-only freight trains between Wilsden in north London and Garston on Merseyside.

The new one-man services will increase the pressure on the NUR and almost inevitably result in more redundancy notices for guards. So far more than 245 railway workers have been warned that they are to be dismissed for refusing to co-operate with the new system.

The increasing temperature of the dispute will lead to calls among militants for an all-out stoppage. Mr Jimmy Knapp, NUR general secretary, has so far advocated a gradual approach to industrial action in the dispute.

British Rail hope that the peer support for an unofficial stoppage on the Eastern Region on Monday will mean that most of their employees will defy any official call to take action.

Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, yesterday accused the board of adopting a "bolshevik attitude" towards its workforce. The industrial action so far has been a product of management's hardline statements, he said.

Meanwhile local action continued to affect suburban services from Glasgow Central and King's Cross, but Inter-city services on the Western Region were back to normal.

British Airways flights out of Heathrow Airport were grounded for 90 minutes yesterday when members of the airline's 10,000 engineers walked out.

The engineers, all members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, called a meeting to discuss pay and conditions. But the stoppage which grounded all European, domestic and charter flights, did not affect the checks being carried out on the aircraft.

A union official said: "The men are doing everything they can to make sure the engines and aircraft are safe."

The walk-out, involving engineers based in the central area of Heathrow, concerns an increase granted to tug drivers, who are responsible for the vehicles which manoeuvre aircraft on the ground.

The union official said: "There is a general dissatisfaction among the men. A work-to-rule or an overtime ban are both distinct possibilities."

Such action would severely disrupt British Airways services at Heathrow. The stoppage yesterday affected hundreds of passengers and held up six jumbo jet flights.

Union officials said that further meetings are likely.

Rebels drop case against pit union

Two miners yesterday dropped their High Court action which led to the National Union of Mineworkers being put into the hands of a receiver.

The decision by Mr Bob Taylor and Mr Ken Foulstone comes after an undertaking by the union not to take disciplinary action against them for working throughout the pit strike.

Mr Justice Scott, sitting in the High Court in London, approved an agreement under which the men are to abandon their actions against the union and its Yorkshire area which resulted in rulings that the strike was unlawful and contrary to NUM rules.

In contempt actions which followed, sequestrators were ordered to seize the union's assets and a receiver appointed to run its affairs.

Mr Arthur Smith, the union president, reacted angrily last night on learning that it will be October before applications to discharge the sequestrators and receiver are heard by the court.

He said in Durham: "It is ironic that there is no case against the NUM and yet we still have an order of sequestration against the union on the basis of an action brought in 1984."

"This action and the subsequent appointment of a receiver has cost union members over £1 million. If there is any justice left in Britain's courts, the order of sequestration should immediately be removed and the receiver should also be discharged."

Last October the NUM was fined £200,000 and Mr Scargill £1,000 for contempt of court for not complying with the ruling that the stoppage was unlawful.

Sequestrators were appointed to seize the union's assets when the NUM's fine was not paid.

Mr Taylor and Mr Foulstone, both of Manton colliery in Yorkshire, successfully argued for the appointment of a receiver because they claimed the union was spending money on an illegal strike.

Quick win puts Briton ahead in chess event

The British Grandmaster Murray Chandler took the lead in the seventh round of the Lloyds Bank Masters' chess tournament with a 30-move win with the black pieces against B. Stein of West Germany.

The two other grandmasters who started the round in equal first, have both adjourned in favourable positions. Alexander Beliavsky the world number three, is a pawn ahead against Peter Wells, while John Nunn has a very strong king-side attack against 18-year-old James Howell.

If Beliavsky and Nunn both win, they will join Chandler in first place.

In the remainder game between the leaders Julian Hodgson defended well against the women's world champion, Maya Chiburdanidze to hold the draw.

Leading scores: Murray Chandler (England) 6 out of 7; Julian Hodgson (England); Chiburdanidze (Soviet Union) 5; Nunn, Howell, Wells (England); Beliavsky (Soviet Union) 3 with one adjourned game each.

Whitehall hint of fire brigade cuts

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

A strong hint that manpower cuts in big city fire services are expected was given by the Home Office yesterday in a press notice about the transfer of functions on April 1 from the GLC and metropolitan county councils.

It says that provisional spending levels already announced assumed "that the London, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire fire authorities will impose a recruitment freeze until natural wastage ensures that their brigades are staffed at more efficient levels."

The notice relates to notes of guidance by the Home Office to London boroughs and metropolitan districts to help with the transfer.

It repeats assurances that any redundancies in the fire service would be achieved without compulsory redundancies. It also indicates that the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, considers that the organization of the fire service in certain areas could provide better value.

The Fire Brigades' Union national officer for health and safety, Mr Dave Matthews, said last night that the Government had only recently said that redundancy in the fire service was satisfactory.

He added: "We have heard rumours that manning may be cut and we regard it as ludicrous. We are treated as the Cinderella of the services."

"About 90 per cent of the fire service budget is on wages, so if the Government is looking to save money it must mean a cut in jobs."

Railmen's poll a prominent test of strike ballot rules

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Editor

The results of a poll to be announced by the National Union of Railworkers today may not be the best test of the 1984 Trade Union Act's provision for strike ballots, but it is certainly the most prominent.

The NUR was not forced by court action to hold a ballot conforming to the Act but it has done so voluntarily to forestall the possibility of such action, and if only because it has such a high profile, the rail dispute will be watched closely by politicians to see what impact the Act has on its outcome.

Will the decisive majority, NUR leaders expect make it harder to settle? Will it increase support among other unions and the public for the guards' case? and, if the answer to these questions is yes, will there be criticism from Tory backbenchers that the Act is not doing the job they expected it to?

These will remain imponderables until the rail dispute has run its course, but in the meantime preliminary evidence is coming to light on how strike ballots have been faring since they came into force last Autumn. Ballots known to the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service, probably the most sensitive industrial relations listening post in Whitehall, number 41. Of these 32 secured majorities for action



Mr Prior, who curbed the immunities

while nine were against, and of those in favour, 123 followed injunctions brought under the Act.

In May, Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Employment argued strongly that the reduction in strike figures - 239 in the quarter compared with 510 for the same period in 1984 - was in large part attributable to the 1984 Act.

Although most industrial relations experts in Whitehall accept that the Act has discouraged strikes, it is probably too early in the current economic climate, to be sure. What can be said is that

ACTIONS BROUGHT UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S THREE LAWS IN 1985				
Date	Employer	Union	Case	
January	Everard	NUS	Secondary action	
February	Daily Mail	Sogat	Picketing	
February	Press Computer Systems	NUS	Secondary action	
February	Stophenson Clarke	NUS	Secondary action	
February	Softball Council	NUT and NAG	Strike ballot	
March	Wolverhampton Express and Star	NAG	Strike ballot	
March	Crown News Group Newspapers	NAG and Sogat	Strike ballot	
March	Post Office	UCW	Strike ballot	
March	Brinks-Mat	Apex	Strike ballot	
April	Brighton Evening Argus	NAG and NUT	Strike ballot	
May	London Regional Transport	NUR	Strike ballot	
July	Guardian Newspaper	NAG	Strike ballot	
July	British Rail	NUR	Strike ballot	
July	Financial Times	Sogat	Secondary action	
August	BT	NCU	Strike ballot	

Injunctions were granted in all cases except Crown v CPSA, where a writ was issued

the Act is a powerful deterrent against strike calls by unions aware of their rank and file support. And with at least 26 injunctions already brought under it, employers have shown a marked willingness to use it as a weapon.

The chance of the 1984 Act closest to the heart of its main author, Mr Norman Tebbit, the Trade and Industry Secretary, prescribes secret ballots for all elections of union executives which take place after this October. When the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians earlier this month changed its rules to conform with this provision, it was almost certainly setting a trend. Most unions are expected to conform rather than face the prospect of legal actions from their own members until they do so. The spate of actions by individual NUM members during the coal strike has been a sobering lesson.

The third prong of the 1984 Act - secret 10-yearly ballots on political fund - has been put into operation by the unions, and with unexpectedly positive results. Of the 11 so far carried out all have shown big majorities in favour of keeping the funds.

So much for the Tebbit/King act. What of the two laws introduced by Mr James Prior?

By curbing the immunities from civil action enjoyed by the unions since 1966, the 1980

damage the environment. It would also extend planning controls to agricultural buildings, hedges and excavations.

It stated that VAT on home repairs should be abolished and an independent agency set up to encourage energy efficiency, both in homes and industries.

Although the issue of nuclear energy was not examined, the document said there should be no large expansion of the existing nuclear power programme before the problem of disposal of nuclear waste was solved. Britain should also join the Thirty Per Cent Club, a group of industrialized nations committed to reducing sulphur emissions by 30 per cent by 1993.

"Although we recognize that the scientific arguments about the precise reasons for acid rain are not fully resolved, the SDP believes that sufficient evidence is available to justify bringing about further major reductions in emissions."

It stated that all power stations should eventually be fitted with emission-reducing equipment.

Mr Rodgers: "The quality of life matters."

National data base proposed

By Anthony Beving Political Correspondent

Britain could become an international centre for data banks and brokers, a Liberal policy paper on new technology said yesterday.

The policy paper, *Progress through Change*, said that a national information exchange data base was needed to stimulate commercial progress.

It said: "The key commodity in the new industrial revolution is information itself. Just as the old industrial revolution needed a formal system for the exchange of commodities to feed it, so the new one will need an efficient system of information exchange."

"Our merchant adventurer forbears sailed the seas to find commercial opportunities - the modern merchant adventurer will probably travel data bases for the same purpose."

The Liberal paper comes after the publication of a Social Democratic Party policy document on high technology, *Focus on the Future*, and contains a number of similar suggestions; for the stimulation of education, overcoming skill shortages, encouraging research, development and profitable production.

Mr Paddy Ashdown, Liberal MP for Yeovil, explained yesterday that the SDP and the

Liberal would have a common theme of new policy and priorities next year.

He said that no attempt had been made to cost the Liberal package but it was thought that it would involve extra expenditure of about £200 million on infrastructure, education and aid to industry.

Mr Ashdown said that one of the key points of the Liberal paper was its unshaken emphasis on a European framework for new technology development.

The paper said: "The nineteenth century industrialists established a transport infrastructure capable of moving the raw materials and the products of their new industries. We will have to establish a new kind of infrastructure to cope with the needs of ours."

Prayers to save Irish harvest

By Tim Jones

With the Shannon valley in flood and Irish farmers facing financial ruin because of unrelenting rain, Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich, Primate of All Ireland, called yesterday on the Irish people to pray and use sacrifices to save the harvest.

Sacrifices might include fasting or cutting out smoking and drinking.

The Cardinal's plea came as the Irish Cabinet was meeting to discuss the disaster facing their agriculture industry, which is the cornerstone of the country's economy.

Months of endless rain has flattened crop of hay and wheat, and potatoes and other root vegetables are blighted.

Cardinal O'Fiaich, in a letter to priests, asks them to include in all public Masses, on week days and Sundays, collect good weather to save the harvest. "We should humbly and confidently ask God for an improvement in the weather."

He added: "Such an improvement is absolutely necessary if thousands of farmers are not to suffer disastrous losses."

Many people, he said, had been discouraged by the dull, dreary days of constant rain of the past few months and with the prospect of a worse year, he called on all Irish people to pray for a change in the weather.

Cardinal O'Fiaich, president of the Irish Farmers Association, said he had been appalled by what he had seen while driving through the Shannon region.

"The weather is not alone causing physical and financial hardship to farmers. I have been alarmed at the mental stress and emotional consequences I have observed, as hard-working, decent people see their livelihood being washed away and the security of their families threatened."

Police attacked

Police officers were attacked by stone-throwing youths in Liverpool's Toxteth area on Monday night when they went to recover a stolen police car. There were no injuries.

Mud rescue attempt comes to a sticky end

A courting couple who stopped in their car to watch the tide come in found that the Vauxhall Astra, belonging to the boy's father, had slowly sank into the muddy sand at Weston-Super-Mare.

Yesterday the father and two garages were counting the cost of a recovery operation that went badly wrong. A Ford Transit van called from a garage to pull him out sank as well, and so did a Range Rover from another garage that tried to pull out both of them.

All three vehicles are almost certainly write-offs after they spent the night submerged under the tide.

The chain of errors came to an end when a garage boss, Mr Phil McMullan, refused to use his Land Rover to pull out the other three vehicles after he was called out by police at 2 am, four hours after the Astra got stuck.

The last of the three vehicles was pulled out by a winch using steel wires just two hours before the afternoon high tide.

Suicide over rot

Mr Patrick Lynch, aged 28, killed himself after discovering woodworm in the flat he had just bought in Tuffnell Park Road, Holloway, north London, a St Pancras inquest was told yesterday. The woodworm was later found to have caused only £143 worth of damage, a verdict that he killed himself while the balance of his mind was disturbed was recorded.

Peer found shot

Lord Sinclair of Cleve, aged 65, was found dead yesterday with shotgun wounds in the grounds of his home, Cleve Court, near Bristol.

He said there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death of the former Lieutenant-Colonel in The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

Rebel choice

Mr John Dunn, a former Clay Cross rent rebel councillor, has been nominated by Derbyshire National Union of Mineworkers as Labour candidate for the North-East Derbyshire constituency. Mr Raymond Ellis the sitting MP plans to retire at the next election. Labour's majority at the last general election was 2,006.

Rugby ban call

Anti-apartheid supporters have called on Torfaen Borough Council, Gwent, to ban Graham Price, the former Wales, British Lions and Pontypool prop who is on the current Crawshaw's rugby tour to South Africa, from playing on council-owned Pontypool park, home of the Welsh champions.

Body recovered

The body of Mr James Joseph Pollock, aged 39, an Ulster businessman, was recovered yesterday, 12 hours after he was thrown overboard from his motor-cruiser when it hit an anchored German cargo ship at the mouth of the Lough.

Holiday match

Mr Peter Smith, chairman of Impact Holidays, Carlisle, is giving a free two-week honeymoon in Spain to a couple who met and fell in love on one of his holidays. Mrs Kathy Underwood wrote to thank him for a French holiday on which she met her husband.

Baby 'is stable'

Christopher Garlick, aged 17 days, born with a congenital heart valve in an open-heart operation on Saturday, was in a critical but stable condition in hospital in Liverpool last night. The hospital said he was making satisfactory progress.

Kidnap charges

Slough magistrates remanded a third man in custody yesterday on kidnapping and robbery charges after the abduction of a boy aged 11 in Windsor, Berkshire, last week. He is Harris Amarsinghe, aged 38, of Montem Lane, Slough.

False security

Staff at a bureau de change in London's Oxford Street handed over more than £20,000 to a bogus policeman for safekeeping on Monday night after he flashed a warrant card and warned them they were about to be robbed.

Rape charges

Six men aged between 17 and 21 accused of raping a girl aged 15 in Derby on Sunday were remanded in custody yesterday. A boy aged 16 is also being held and will appear before a juvenile court.

Correction

Biscardo of Verona, two of whose wines have been found to contain diethylene glycol, supply Stowells of Chelsea with bottled Italian wines, but not Wine Box Soave as stated on August 24.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$28.00, Belgium 2.25, Canada \$2.75, Channel Islands £1.75, France £1.75, Germany £1.75, Hong Kong \$2.00, India £1.75, Japan ¥200.00, New Zealand \$2.00, Norway £1.75, Portugal \$2.00, Singapore \$2.00, South Africa £1.75, Sweden \$2.00, Switzerland \$2.00, Taiwan \$2.00, Thailand \$2.00, USA \$2.00, West Germany £1.75.

Brittan to consider guidelines change on police use of firearms

By Peter Evans and Robin Young

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, is to consider whether Home Office guidelines on the police use of firearms should be revised when Mr Joe Mounsey, Assistant Chief Constable of Lancashire, has completed his inquiry into the death of John Shorthouse, aged five, during a police raid on his family home in Birmingham.

Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State at the Home Office, said yesterday that the shooting bore "all the hallmarks of an accidental discharge and should not be compared with earlier incidents such as that involving Stephen Waldorf" (Mr Waldorf was critically injured when mistaken for Metropolitan Police marksman for a fugitive, David Martin).

Mr Shaw, who issued a statement after receiving a preliminary report from Mr Geoffrey Dear, chief constable of the West Midlands, said that the chief constable and the Police Complaints Authority would have the power to refer Mr Mounsey's conclusions to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The authority would also be able to make a public report to the Home Secretary on matters of public interest, Mr Shaw said.

"I have asked the Police Complaints Authority to consider this," he said. "In the light of the conclusions of this independent inquiry the Home Secretary will consider whether the guidelines should be re-

vised, and all police forces will want to learn any lessons arising from this tragic event in order to prevent a similar occurrence in the future."

The shooting of John Shorthouse was the second time in three years that West Midlands police had fired a gun in a bedroom occupied by a child.

On the previous occasion a bullet was fired into a bed occupied by two children of Mr James Hazell in Winslow Green, Birmingham. Mrs Clare Short, Labour MP for Ladywood, has said that the police bullet narrowly missed Mr Hazell's daughter Abena, now aged six.

Mr Hazell is still involved in legal proceedings claiming compensation over the incident.

It was the second time in five years that West Midlands police

had been involved in the accidental shooting of innocent victims.

In 1980, Gail Kinchin, aged 16, died after being hit by four police bullets at the end of a siege in Rubery, Birmingham.

An officer who fired one of the shots, Det Sgt Tom Sartain, aged 41, died in 1983. Colleagues said he was a broken man who never got over the girl's killing.

The police officer who shot John Shorthouse is a constable aged 36 with three young children of his own. He is a fully trained member of the police tactical firearms unit, with 16 years' service. He has left his family home in Coventry to stay at a secret address with his pregnant wife and the three children, since being suspended on full pay after the shoot.

Police colleagues say that the constable is suffering from shock and taking tranquillizers.

A senior officer said: "No one seems to realise just what the officer who pulled the trigger is going through."

He is not a callous man. We are talking about the father of three children who worships his family. He just can't believe what has happened and is going through a nightmare. His nerves are in pieces."

Mr Mounsey's investigation is to be supervised by Mr Vernon Clements, a member of the Police Complaints Authority who has been senior community relations officer in Coventry and in Brent.

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Bob Geldof yesterday with the Live Aid book and photographers who gave their services free: (from left, standing) Nils Jorgenson, Alan Davidson, Brian Aris, Richard Young, Jon Hoffman; (sitting) Adrian Booth, Bob Geldof, Steve Rapport, Alan Grisbrook, Duncan Raben (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Geldof planning to raise more

Mr Bob Geldof, organizer of Live Aid, spoke yesterday of the problems of spending the £50 million raised to help the starving of Africa.

He said that he was aiming for a continuous stream of relief trucks from London to east Sudan and a series of villages for children based on the example of Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

He wants new tools and technology, different crops which are easier to grow, and wells to help prevent further famines.

The Boomtown Rats singer also talked of plans to raise more cash for Band Aid by releasing a film of the Live Aid concert, getting multinational

companies to sponsor Band Aid workers and trying to persuade governments to give more food.

Mr Geldof was speaking in London at the launch of an official Live Aid book which was produced in 13 days and has raised £500,000. He was accompanied by John Entwistle, former guitarist with The Who, and Phil Collins, two other performers in Live Aid.

Live Aid hopes that within a month the first convoy of 95 20-ton trucks from its fleet of 154 will be heading for the famine spots.

A total of 60 per cent of Live Aid money has been earmarked for long-term projects. Mr Geldof proposes a chain of orphanage communities

Mr Geldof said he also planned to persuade members of the European Parliament into demanding more food for the starving millions.

Members and staff at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, are to give their services free on Sunday for charity performances in Band Aid, their fund-raising event for the hungry in Ethiopia.

Prisoners at Channings Wood prison at Newton Abbot in Devon entertained 600 staff, their wives, guests, and other prisoners with three rock groups this week to raise several hundred pounds for food aid to Africa.

Notting Hill carnival a 'success'

The twentieth Notting Hill Carnival was reckoned a success yesterday by both police and organizers.

Mr Bob Innes, the Deputy Assistant Commissioner, said the two-day event, in which between 500,000 and a million people thronged into west London, compared favourably with other large policing exercises such as Wimbledon and football matches.

Although the number of arrests was slightly up at 108, compared with 96 last year, reported crimes were well down at 400.

Drink case will test football legislation

A Manchester City supporter is to appear in court charged with trying to get into a football match while drunk. It is believed to be the first prosecution of its kind in England and Wales under new government legislation introduced during the summer to curb soccer hooliganism.

The Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol) Etc Act makes it an offence to try to enter a designated sports ground while drunk when an event is taking place. It is also now an offence to be drunk during a sporting event in a ground, but there have already been arrests for this since the new season started earlier this month.

The 25-year-old supporter was arrested at last night's First Division game in Birmingham between West Bromwich Albion and Manchester City. He was released on police bail to appear before West Bromwich magistrates next month.

Hullfax Town are set to defy local council safety instructions for Friday's home game with Preston. The club will decide today whether to let spectators stand in defiance of West Yorkshire County Council instructions.

The council has told the club that until the crash barriers meet the requirements of the Ground Safety Act all spectators at the Shay must be seated, with a maximum 1,775.

Madame Coppieters (Walant, a Belgian investigating magistrate and a Belgian judicial police team travelled to Liverpool yesterday to study the evidence amassed by Merseyside Police against 32 Britons arrested after the death of 38 fans at the European Cup Final at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels in May.

Earlier she had met Home Office Police Department officials in London.

Get bigger or close, grocers' shops told

By Colin Hughes

High street grocers will need to turn into up-market fine-food shops and convenience stores if they are to stay in business, according to a report by Euromonitor, the market analysts.

Euromonitor says that, since 1971, 47,000 small-grocery shops have disappeared, with the share of food sales among independent shops sliding from 50 per cent to 21 per cent. Even the middle-ranking chains must "get bigger, or get out", the report concludes.

The top eight multiple companies - John Sainsbury, Tesco, Asda, Dees, Argill, Fine Fare, Safeway and Kwik Save - now account for 47.5 per cent of grocery shop sales.

Since 1980 the expansion of hypermarkets and supermarkets, as well as superstores, has cut the share of food sales for co-operatives and small chains and retailers from 48 per cent to 39 per cent.

Euromonitor predicts that out-of-town superstores will expand increasingly into non-food sales, while the large supermarkets will continue growing to become the main food outlet in Britain.

They expect many more of the small chains to be bought up by the big multiples.

The Co-operative Society lost 12.5 per cent of its membership between 1981 and 1984, while department stores such as Marks & Spencer have moved in. The latter has increased its food sales by nearly two-thirds to sales worth £1 billion in the past four years.

Other "symbol" groups, such as Spar and Landmark Cash and Carry, have survived by merger.

The Grocery Report, price £180, is available from Euromonitor Publications, 87-88 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5QU.

Grocery market shares 1984	
% of total grocery shop sales	
Sainsbury	10.5
Tesco	10.2
Asda	8.1
Dees	6.5
Argill	4.5
Fine Fare	4.3
Safeway	3.4
Kwik Save	2.5
Others	52.5

Food distribution by outlet	
% of food sales	
	1980-1984
Hypermarkets & supermarkets	6 12
Supermarkets	28 33
Co-operatives	10 8
Department & variety stores	6 5
Others incl. small chains	48 39

Parts group enters car phone race

By Clifford Webb

Motoring Correspondent

Unipart, the BL company which is the largest spare parts and car component group in Britain, announced its intention yesterday to become the most powerful force in the booming cellular car-telephone business.

In contrast to the proliferation of small companies selling equipment and air time tied exclusively to one of the two competing cellular networks, Celnat and Racal, Unipart customers will have access to both.

Mr David Jones, a former British Telecom executive recruited to be managing Director of the new company UniqueAir, said that it had signed up more than 350 sales and fitting outlets in the United Kingdom. Most were existing Unipart dealers but the number was expected to double by the middle of next year, he said.

The equipment, designed exclusively for cars, would work equally well linked to Celnat or Racal stations around the country, he said.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION

- Genetic disease
- Aids fight
- Vaccine advance
- High-tech youth
- Optical computer
- Pollution

Doctor calls for education programme to help to prevent genetic diseases

The successful use of gene probes for diagnosing inherited disease in the first nine or 10 weeks of pregnancy raises more important social implications than technical ones, Dr Bernadette Modell, consultant in perinatal medicine at University College, London, told the British Association meeting at Strathclyde University yesterday. A genetic health education programme, with the offer of testing, genetic counselling and information, was needed, she said.

Dr Modell was speaking about an international trial of a new technique known as chorionic villus sampling, in which less than 50mg of a sample from the womb is enough for an examination of the complete genetic make-up of the foetus. She said that the technique should become applicable to most forms of genetic disease. "Gene probes" is the shorthand description for the biochemical trick in the laboratory of producing a map of the genes in the strands of DNA to identify any defects.

Dr Modell focused on the implications for two blood disorders, sickle cell anaemia and thalassaemia. She described them as among the most treatable and prevent-

able of common inherited disorders. There was evidence that the first could largely be avoided by neo-natal diagnosis and the use of simple protective measures from the first months of life.

Thalassaemia could be treated by monthly blood transfusions, combined with daily infusion of the iron-chelating agent desferrioxamine. It was effective and cost about £4,000 a year for a healthy life for each patient.

Most of the disorders were due to the absence of some biological entity in the body, for which drugs were usually ineffective and treatment requires some way of substituting the missing molecules.

"Since treatment stops patients dying, while others continue to be born, the number of patients to whom treatment can be delivered increases steadily, while at the same time the amount to be done for each patient usually increases as treatment improves, and this can lead to

important problems of implementation," she said.

Dr Modell gave as an example the incidence in Cyprus of thalassaemia among children who began regular transfusions about 20 years ago. Their numbers increased so fast that eight years later it was predicted that in a further 20 years, 40 per cent of the island's population would have to donate blood once a year for thalassaemia alone.

Health service costs would soar to pay for hospital treatment for the disease alone, unless there was some form of prevention. Genetic counselling had alleviated such a dilemma.

Dr Modell said that the prevention of birth of children with thalassaemia depended on the fact that it was possible to diagnose carriers before they had any affected children.

People needed to know whether they had an avoidable risk either very early in pregnancy, or preferably even before they had received at all. But "premarital testing was not generally practised in north European countries, she said, although it was becoming widely available in the Mediterranean area.

Detention of Aids patients 'unlikely'

Compulsory powers to detain Aids patients in hospital to reduce the risk of infection are unlikely to be invoked, Dr Donald Acheson, the chief medical officer of the Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday.

Dr Acheson said that the key to controlling the disease would rest not on compulsion but on education about the nature of the risks and practical advice on how to avoid them.

He said later that he felt it was unjustifiable for an employer to dismiss an employee who had been infected with the Aids virus.

Dr Acheson said: "I know of no job where there is a risk of transmitting Aids because of the nature of the occupation. There is no cause whatever for an employer to discharge an employee because he is infected with the virus."

"Anyone who is asked by an employer whether he suffers from Aids, or has the infection, should tell that employer to mind his own business."

He said that responsibility was being shown by homosexuals in modifying their behaviour to reduce the risk of the spread of Aids.

Most forms of cancer were avoidable and the means of preventing them would be

discovered in the next few decades, Professor Sir Richard Doll, regius professor of medicine at Oxford University, predicted yesterday.

As many as 90 per cent of fatal cancers may be avoidable, Sir Richard said. Total elimination of smoking in Britain would not only reduce the risk of lung cancer by 90 per cent but would have a substantial effect on the risk of other cancers.

There was now reason to believe that low tar cigarettes were partly responsible for the fall in deaths from lung cancer in younger men in recent years, he said.

There was also evidence that changes in diet could reduce the risk of some cancers by 50 per cent.

Sir Richard said that he was optimistic that a vaccine for cervical cancer would eventually be found.

Professor John Catford, director of the Welsh Heart Programme, said yesterday that pharmacists, under suitable supervision, could screen blood pressure and cholesterol levels for a little as £5 a person to reduce heart disease.

He said: "This is half the sum we currently pay to have our motor vehicles checked once a year. Surely we value the health of our bodies more than that of our motor cars."

'Groundless fears' over impact of technology

Prophets of gloom who suggest that modern technology is destroying our lives and transforming our children into passive, dependent, socially isolated individuals are mistaken, according to Professor Rudolf Schaffer of Strathclyde University's department of psychology.

In the opening address to the psychology section of the association he said that the spread of microcomputers and television is happening at a rate that often leaves elders bewildered.

Professor Schaffer compared the electronic revolution with the impact of previous changes, including high rise flats, work on lead pollution and contra-

ception, to which forethought was not given about their human implications.

He believed that more study and understanding was being applied to the spread of technology. While he condemned the pursuit of technology for its own sake, he also deplored the attitude that all technological development had negative social consequences.

He described present research into the impact of microcomputers, and television which showed that earlier fears that these would leave to condition such as social isolation, had been found to be groundless.

The effects of lead on measures such as the IQ of children are either non-existent or extremely small and are outweighed by other factors, Doctor Harvey said.

But he said it would be foolish to increase the amount of lead to which children are exposed.

The only major study indicating lead could have a marked effect was conducted on school children in Boston, six years ago. It suggested that children with higher lead levels had lower IQs and more classroom behavioural problems.



The Interior Minister, Herr Friedrich Zimmermann (left), and the secret service chief, Herr Heribert Hellenbroich.

West German spy chief faces sack over defection scandal

From Our Correspondent Bonn

Chancellor Kohl is believed likely today to sack the head of the West German secret service as a first step in a shake-up of the country's security agencies following the defection of a top spy hunter to East Germany.

The man expected to go is Herr Heribert Hellenbroich, chief of the Bundesnachrichtendienst since August 1, who until last month was the boss of the defector, Herr Hans-Joachim Tiedge, in the counter intelligence service.

Herr Hellenbroich has admitted he knew Herr Tiedge had serious drink and debts problems that made him a security risk. But he decided to keep him on his post as head of operations against East Germany, "because removing him could have made him a greater risk".

Herr Friedrich Ost, chief government, told newsmen yesterday that Herr Kohl found it "totally incomprehensible that in this case, against the background of Tiedge's personal difficulties, no earlier action had been taken".

Herr Ost said Herr Tiedge would take swift steps after Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, the Interior Minister, had given him a second fuller report today.

However, Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, parliamentary leader of the opposition Social Democrats, later called on Herr Kohl to dismiss Herr Zimmermann if

the minister would not resign of his own accord.

He said it was now clear Herr Zimmermann bore the political responsibility for the Tiedge affair, which he said was "catastrophic".

Herr Vogel, who is also chairman of the parliament's watchdog body on the security services, spoke shortly after Herr Zimmermann had reported to it on the scandal.

Herr Kohl is not expected to bow to the opposition leader's demand, despite the seriousness of the Tiedge defection which is seen as the worst blow to West German counter-espionage operations in decades.

Herr Ost said the chancellor would not dismiss Herr Zimmermann because it was clear that the minister had not been informed of Herr Tiedge's problems by the counter-intelligence service.

Herr Zimmermann also reported to cabinet on the investigations into the Tiedge affair, and was said to have assured his colleagues that while it had caused serious damage, this could be "contained".

Bonn officials also were optimistic that Herr Tiedge's flight would not hurt West Germany's co-operation with other Western secret services. One said: "There has been no negative development in this area."

The American Embassy in Bonn refused to comment on The Times report yesterday that

Washington's fears about the West German intelligence "sieve" would bar Bonn from sharing secrets of President Reagan's Star Wars programme.

But Western diplomats in Bonn said privately that the Tiedge affair had probably hurt relations between West Germany and its Nato partners more than those between the two Germans.

No new information emerged yesterday on the 12 Bonn secretaries who on Tuesday were reported to be under investigation by security men.

But the case of Frau Margarete Hoke, aged 50, a secretary in the Federal President's office, who was arrested last Sunday as a suspected East German spy, was said to be "much more serious than first imagined".

In Cologne yesterday, a woman friend of Herr Tiedge was in a Cologne clinic following a suicide attempt. She was identified as Gerda K, aged 45, a colleague of his in the counter intelligence service, who is said to have lived with him for a while.

Security sources said she was not suspected of spying for East Germany.

Herr Tiedge, aged 48, a widower, is said to have had several daughters, with women following the death of his wife, Ute, in 1982.

The Cologne public prosecutor is now investigating the cause of her death.

Weinberger cancels \$4bn gun

Washington - The Pentagon, in effect admitting an embarrassing and costly mistake, cancelled orders for 146 sophisticated but inadequate radar-controlled air defence guns known as Davids.

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary already embarrassed by repeated reports of Pentagon waste, said: "Independent operational test demonstrated that the system's performance does not effectively meet the military threat."

Commentators say that the radar can be misled, the gun is not quick enough, and it has jammed. The Army wanted 614 of the costing \$4.2 billion and had already taken delivery of 65 worth \$1.8 billion which will be scrapped.

Lee names new island president

Singapore (Reuters) - The Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, named Mr Wee Kim Wee, chairman of the state-run broadcasting corporation, as Singapore's new President.

Mr Wee, aged 70, a former journalist and diplomat, will be elected on Friday. He replaces Mr Davan Nair, who resigned in March after confessing he was an alcoholic.

Liberia poll ban

Monrovia (AFP) - Liberia banned the opposition United People's Party and its chairman, Mr Gabriel Bacus Matthews, in advance of presidential and legislative elections to be held on October 15 after five years of military rule.

Gorbachov regret

Moscow (Reuters) - Mr Gorbachov has sent a cable of condolence to the mother of Samantha Smith, the American girl welcomed in Moscow in 1983 after she wrote to the Kremlin of her fears of nuclear war. She died in a plane crash on Sunday.

Unkindest cut

Belgrade (AP) - Surgeons have removed surgical pinners left inside a youth now aged 18 when he had his appendix out five years ago. They were found by X-ray after he passed a 1 1/2 in piece of stainless steel.

US-Soviet relations thaw as summit approaches

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Russia and the United States are "on the path of improved relations" leading up to the November superpower summit despite recent tensions between Moscow and Washington, according to Mr John Block, the American Secretary for Agriculture.

But he had "expressed concern" over Russia's failure to fulfil its grain purchases this year.

Mr Block, speaking after two days of high level talks in Moscow, said he was happy to say that neither side had raised any controversial questions during the talks. There was no mention of the disarmament talks or Washington's allegations that the KGB has used a cancer-causing chemical powder to keep track of American residents and their contacts.

The Kremlin has angrily accused Washington of seeking confrontation with Russia in the run-up to the Gorbachov-Reagan summit and of trying to counter-act favourable world opinion to Moscow's disarmament offers. A team of investigators from the United States Environment Agency and National Institute of Health arrives in Moscow today to examine evidence of KGB "spy dust" contamination.

Mr Block held talks with Mr Valentin Mesyats the Soviet Agriculture Minister, and Mr Viktor Nikonov, who in April replaced Mr Gorbachov as

Central Committee Secretary for Agriculture.

He said he had not sought a meeting with Mr Gorbachov. Mr Block signed no major new agreements during his "cordial and useful" talks, but declared himself "very pleased" with the 19 million tonnes of grain Russia had purchased during the current fiscal year, which ends in October.

He acknowledged that Moscow was buying more corn than wheat, and that the Russians had still to buy just over one million tonnes of the wheat they had pledged to import under current agreements. There was no absolute guarantee that the Russians would buy the outstanding amount but he felt they would do so.

Mr Block declined to say what action America would take if Russia failed to take up its grain purchasing commitments fully. But he noted that the trade would figure at the November summit as well as arms control and other issues, and that grain purchases by Russia were the largest element in Soviet-American trade. Russia was now the "number two best market after Japan for the American farmer", he observed.

Mr Block said he had the impression Soviet officials expected a better harvest than last year. But it would still be around 190 million tonnes, well below the target figure of 239 million tonnes.

Pretoria may scuttle trip by EEC delegation

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg

Pretoria appears to be preparing to scuttle the South African trip of three EEC foreign ministers later this week if, in its view, they are not prepared to come with an open mind.

Mr Roelof "piet" Botha, the Foreign Minister, said the visit would serve no purpose if "it was designed to prescribe foreign formulas for South Africa's complex problems and to lay down time scales for the implementation of these formulas".

The Government has also fully turned down a request by three ministers to meet Mr Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned African national Congress leader, although two American journalists were allowed to interview him last week.

Botha under attack as rand plunges to new record low

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

The South African rand sank to a new record low of 35.50 cents against the US dollar in Johannesburg yesterday and the pound was traded at 3.80 rands as the Governor of the Reserve Bank claimed that the international business world was ignoring the fundamental strength of the country's economy.

But even as Dr Gerhard de Kock addressed the Reserve Bank's annual meeting in Pretoria, exporters were reported to be keeping out of the foreign exchange market in the belief that the South African currency would fall even further.

The renewed run on the rand had been expected since the Reserve Bank disclosed in its annual report at the weekend that foreign investors were cashing in securities on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange at an alarming rate and since reports that foreign banks were refusing to "roll over" short-term credit. The money market's reaction was delayed for 24 hours only because of Monday's bank holiday in Britain.

In a savage leading article yesterday the Johannesburg newspaper, *Business Day*, said that in the 12 days since the speech by President P W Botha in Durban the value of the rand had fallen by 30 per cent.

It declared: "It can be convincingly argued that had he not been led into such a public relations fiasco or had he something objective to say, the rand would, on economic fundamentals, now be worth about 60 American cents. So, in fact, PW has effectively sliced 40 per cent off its value."

Dr de Kock said yesterday that because of South Africa's big current account surplus the outflow of capital could be handled, but he said inflation

and interest rates would rise to a new record low of 35.50 cents against the US dollar in Johannesburg yesterday and the pound was traded at 3.80 rands as the Governor of the Reserve Bank claimed that the international business world was ignoring the fundamental strength of the country's economy.

He ruled out the re-introduction of exchange controls on non-residents funds which were abolished in 1983, saying: "As long as we have a choice, we would prefer not to move in that direction. To tighten monetary policy at this stage would only exacerbate the recession and create more unemployment."

He also gave an assurance that South Africa would not take what bankers are calling the "banana republic option" - asking for a rescheduling of its foreign debt repayments. "The economy is still capable of financing net loan and credit repayments and other capital outflows of more than 400 million rands a month," he said.

Economists and bankers echoed the gloom. The Standard Bank said the authorities could be forced to intervene directly to politically induced pressure caused further falls in the rand's value.

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Man in the News

Churchman who preaches anti-apartheid gospel

When Dr Allan Boesak speaks, the words come out in a high-pitched piping voice that surprises many people the first time they see him on a public platform (Ray Kennedy writes from Johannesburg). But it is singularly effective; it seems to drill his message into an audience's ears.

As president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, he officially represents 70 million church members. As patron of the United Democratic Front (UDF), the umbrella group for more than 200 anti-apartheid organizations in South Africa, he has been at the forefront of the black protest that has swept the country for more than 12 months.

It was to reach a climax today in a mass march he planned to lead on Pollsmoor prison outside Cape Town, where Mr Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, is held. It would, he said, "stand South Africa on its head".

Dr Boesak, aged 39, married with four children, is one of South Africa's mixed-race Coloureds, but he considers all of his fellow Coloureds, Africans and Asians to be "black".

His election to the presidency of the World alliance in Ottawa, in 1982 cost him the possible appointment as Moderator of his own church, the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK) after 100 white clerics voted in a block against him.

The Alliance has denounced apartheid as "heresy" and suspended the NGK and Dr

Boesak finds it witty amusing that, as President of the Alliance, "people say I am also head of the church the State President belongs to."

But he has declared unequivocally: "Apartheid is a policy initially devised by the white NGK, and once taken over by the Government, given moral justification by the NGK, the white church is as responsible as the Government for the chaos, alienation, bitterness and suffering this policy causes."

He is no stranger to the attentions of the police. In January this year when, in his capacity as UDF patron, he was hosting Senator Edward Kennedy during his controversial visit to South Africa.

Johannesburg newspaper published a report that he had been charged with security police had launched a "dirty tricks" campaign over an extra-marital affair between Dr Boesak and a white woman working for the South African Council of Churches - then an offence in itself under the Immorality Act.

The campaign involved the distribution of pamphlets listing dates when Dr Boesak was supposed to have the woman in various hotels and a tape purporting to record intimate moments between the two.

Although the security police denied involvement, the Media Council of South Africa found that "certain members" were implicated. The Ring (Synod) of the Sendingkerk exonerated Dr Boesak after he denied having an affair with the woman.

However, the smear has remained, and Dr Boesak's critics, most of them on the white right wing of South African politics, have continued to try to resurrect the episode, as he has continued, with undiminished ferocity, to drill home his denunciation of "the system" from both pulpit and platform.

He probably knows he would never be allowed to stay free to lead the march on Pollsmoor prison. When the Government said it would be illegal and that the police would take "strict action", he scoffed: "One doesn't know these days whether casting a shadow is legal."

Dr Allan Boesak: in forefront of black protest.

Paper pours scorn on Reagan

From Michael Blayton, Washington

President Reagan's remarks that so forth were segregated - all that has been eliminated."

He also pointed to "the very fact that now blacks have the ability - being in labour unions or even having their own labour unions - the fact they can buy property in the heretofore white areas - that they can own businesses in some 40 white-dominated business districts."

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, tried to qualify this later, saying the President was referring to racial policies in main cities such as Pretoria, Cape Town, and others, where he said there had been "a step in that direction".

Asked whether Mr Reagan believed racial segregation had been eliminated in South Africa, he said: "Not totally, no."

he was glad that the Rev Jerry Falwell, the leader of the conservative Moral Majority, had apologized for calling Bishop Desmond Tutu a "phony". But he seemed to defend Mr Falwell by saying his remark was based on what he had heard from those he had met in South Africa.

Among the statements Mr Reagan made which were likely to arouse lasting controversy was his observation that the black majority was "a combination of minorities". He said there were at least 10 tribal divisions there. This explained Mr Falwell's impression that some blacks had rejected Bishop Tutu as a leader.

The President gave a warning that the Soviet Union was waiting in the wings should the US abandon its support of the present Pretoria Government.

Mr Reagan condemned apartheid as repugnant and said

Renewed US aid will fund two-front assault on Sandinistas by rebels

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The renewed United States "non-military" funding for Nicaraguan guerrillas will be used to support an intensified two-front assault against the governing Sandinistas. The funds are expected to begin arriving in about a week.

A new anti-sandinista rebel force has been created on the Costa Rican border, with both official and unofficial American backing, in an attempt to escalate military pressure on the Cuban-backed Government. America has only once briefly previously supported guerrillas operating on Nicaragua's southern border.

The US began new military exercises in Honduras this week involving more than 1,800 American and Honduran troops, the latest in a series of manoeuvres since 1983 designed to intimidate the Sandinista Government and left-wing guerrillas.

The structure of the American-backed guerrilla war is undergoing significant change. The US supported the recent creation of an umbrella group called the United Nicaraguan Opposition, which will attempt to co-ordinate the northern and southern campaigns. It will conduct a recruitment drive in the hope of attracting members from other, smaller guerrilla groups in the south.

Development of the southern end of the battle is being strenuously encouraged by the Reagan Administration, which has long been frustrated by the interminable faction fights by groups operating along the Costa Rican border.

Congress has authorized \$27 million (£19.2 million) in "non-lethal" aid to the Nicaraguan Contras this year. The means of distribution are not yet clear, but there are strong indications that all the money will go to the United Nicaraguan Opposition.

The US has abandoned support for the southern-based Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) led by Señor Edén Pastora, who flouted American pressure to join forces with the northern-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN).

● MANAGUA: The leader of Lambeth Council in London, Mr Ted Knights, denied wasting thousands of pounds of ratepayers' money by bringing a five-man delegation to Nicaragua when he addressed a news conference here (Reuters reports).

He said this followed a council decision to "twin" Lambeth with the City of Bluefields, on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast and he wanted to assess how Lambeth could help Bluefields which had been attacked several times by right-wing rebels.



A young Masai warrior with his father in Kajiado, Kenya, at one of the last tribal ceremonies of its kind before a government ban on the warrior class.

The coup in Nigeria

Military rivalries and tide of economic woes led to revolt

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

When Major-General Muhammad Buhari seized power 20 months ago, ordinary Nigerians took to the streets in celebration. They cheered the overthrow of President Shagari's four-and-a-half-year-old civilian government, which had given new meaning to the word corruption, and hailed what they hoped would be a period of efficient military rule to restore the country's fortunes.

But the cheering stopped months ago as it became clear that General Buhari's military regime was having little success in improving the nation's sagging economy - despite a tough and unpopular austerity programme - and that one group of corrupt officials had simply been replaced by another.

Yesterday's coup, therefore, hardly came as a surprise. For the past few weeks speculation had been mounting that his administration's days were numbered. The only uncertainty was when the coup would take place and who would carry it out.

The mastermind behind yesterday's action, and the man named to become the new head of state, is Major-General Ibrahim Babangida, chief of the Army staff and one of the most powerful members of the ruling Supreme Military Council. General Babangida has been involved in all of the previous military coups in Nigeria since it gained its independence.

Yesterday's coup would appear in part to be the result of an internal power struggle between rival Military Council factions. In recent months there have been frequent clashes between General Buhari, General Babangida and Major-General Tunde Idiagbon, the regime's strongman, who had just left on a pilgrimage to Mecca when yesterday's coup occurred.

These disputes were partly the result of personal rivalries, but they had been fuelled by the growing resentment among Nigerians at the military regime's failure.

One cause of increasing tension was the austerity programme which General Buhari instituted in an attempt to revive the nation's oil-based economy after years of waste and corruption. However, the measures led to soaring unemployment, higher inflation, rising food prices and consumer shortages - and little improvement in the overall economy.

At the same time, the Government refused to take the step which most independent economists regarded as essential if the economy was to make a sustained recovery, the devaluation of the naira. Its refusal to devalue the Nigerian currency has prevented agreement being reached on a \$2 billion IMF loan which would provide Nigeria with the credit it badly needs.

Other factors adding to the

Buhari regime's unpopularity have been the harsh and repressive ways it has dealt with dissent. The press, once one of the most outspoken in Africa, has been driven underground. Although some political detainees have been freed, others, including students, academics and journalists, have summarily been thrown into jail.

Even support for the once-popular War Against Indiscipline was beginning to wane. There was a growing resentment at the harshness of the treatment meted out to offenders - which included the death penalty for a wide range of crimes - particularly as the campaign seemed to have little impact on the crime rate.

An indication of the regime's growing unpopularity came earlier this month when retired General Olusegun Obasanjo, a former President, warned in a widely publicized speech that leaders needed to learn to relinquish power voluntarily while they were still popular. When the Babangida Government will be any more successful in dealing with the country's manifold woes remains to be seen. But on the economic front it will be dogged by the same problems that faced Buhari.

Nigeria depends on oil for 95 per cent of its foreign exchange needs, but the world market has shown no sign of turning in favour of oil-producing states.

Greek oil dispute over troubled waters

From Mario Modiano, Athens

A conflict between Greece and an international consortium which controls the concession for oil in the northern Aegean, is threatening to revive Greek-Turkish feuds over the Aegean continental shelf, the potentially oil-rich sea-bed in international waters.

The North Aegean Petroleum company representing a Canadian-American-German conglomerate, which invested more than £500 million for offshore oil and natural gas fields west of Thasos Island, sued Greece for barring the company from drilling new wells in the same area to increase depleting reserves.

Mr C. D. Parmelee, the

company's Canadian chairman, accused Greece of "blackmailing" the consortium to force a revision of the concession contract.

Greece and Turkey have often been at loggerheads over oil prospecting in the Aegean. But both sides repeatedly pledged to refrain from any action prejudicial to the interests of the other in this area.

Bankers hopeful of deal with IMF

By John Lawless

British bankers were cautiously optimistic yesterday that the overthrow of Major-General Muhammad Buhari in Nigeria may have been a manoeuvre to allow a desperately needed economic recovery deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to go ahead.

The ousting in 1983 of the civilian Government of President Shehu Shagari is widely recognized as having been a pre-emptive strike, to stop a power seizure attempt by junior officers in the armed forces.

The fact that yesterday's coup was also bloodless, and timed to coincide with a national Muslim public holiday, is being taken as another indicator that General Buhari was removed by disaffected members of the Supreme Military Council - or that it may even have been a "coup with compliance".

The officer who broadcast news of it, Brigadier Joshua Dogonars, said that while the 1983 coup had been welcomed with "unprecedented enthusiasm", the Supreme Military Council had "progressively been made redundant by the actions of a select few members charged with day-to-day implementation of policies and decisions".

Efforts to offer advice had been viewed, he said, as a challenge to authority or disloyalty and "the scene was being set for a systematic elimination of what was termed 'opposition'".

"What everybody has feared recently has been that the junior officers corps, and particularly left wingers, would try to oust Buhari," one banker with close links with Nigeria said. "That would have thrust Nigeria into the classic downward spiral with one set of army men being replaced by another set with even less idea of how to put right the country's economic ills."

If other senior officers are now in control, he added, Nigeria "will reach a very quick settlement with the IMF, something that was a political

impossibility for Buhari".

Negotiations with the IMF - for a \$3 billion (£2.1 billion) standby credit, to rescue an economy dependent on dwindling oil revenues for 95 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings - have been under way officially for more than two years. They effectively ground to a halt, however, a year ago with the military government refusing to accept a condition that the Nigerian currency, the naira, should be devalued.

Nigeria has performed all manner of financial contortions recently to stay out of the IMF clutches.

It has concluded counter-trade deals with Brazil, France and Austria.

With those three theoretically worth \$1 billion - and with more said to be in the pipeline with Italy, Japan, West Germany and the US - a sudden threat was posed to the fifth of all Nigerian purchases traditionally made from Britain.

British sales, and the overall UK market share, had held up exceptionally well in spite of a massive cut-back in imports. Having been worth £1,225 million in the last of the boom days in 1982, they still stood at £768 million last year, and even climbed again this year, to £579 million in the first six months.

With the threat of sudden exclusion from trade because of countertrade elsewhere, British companies have been pushing for similar deals to be arranged.

However, it is the Export Credits Guarantee Department, the state insurance agency, which has the most to fear from any financial turmoil in Nigeria. It stands to pay out between £300 million and £400 million in claims for short-term trade debts - worth almost as much as it has so far had to borrow so far from the Treasury to meet all global claims from UK exporters because of the recession.

● Markets calm: Oil and other commodity markets in London reacted calmly to the news of the Nigerian military coup (AFP reports).

India faces turmoil as Tamil anger rises

From Richard Ford, Delhi

Clear signs of the internal pressures the Indian Government will face if the conflict in Sri Lanka worsens have already emerged after the deportation from Madras of two leading Tamil representatives.

A three-day agitation throughout the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu is expected to begin today demanding the withdrawal of the deportation orders. As the protest begins, Indian Foreign Office officials will be continuing their efforts to find a formula for restarting talks between Tamil representatives and the Sri Lankan Government.

The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Indian Foreign Secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, have had a series of discussions with Mr Hector Jayewardene, the leader of the Sri Lankan Government delegation during the last three days, and it is expected that Tamil representatives will meet the Prime Minister today.

The talks are taking place against a background of anger in Tamil Nadu at the Government's deportation of Mr Anton Baisangam, of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, and Mr S. Chandrasekaran of Protection of Tamils of Eelam.

The Tamil Eelam supporters' organization accused the Indian Government of acting "like a

puppet" of Sri Lanka. Trains were halted and thousands of students stayed away from classes in protest at the deportations.

Inflammatory speeches have so alarmed the state government of Tamil Nadu, where 50 million Tamils live, that it has closed all educational establishments in the state.

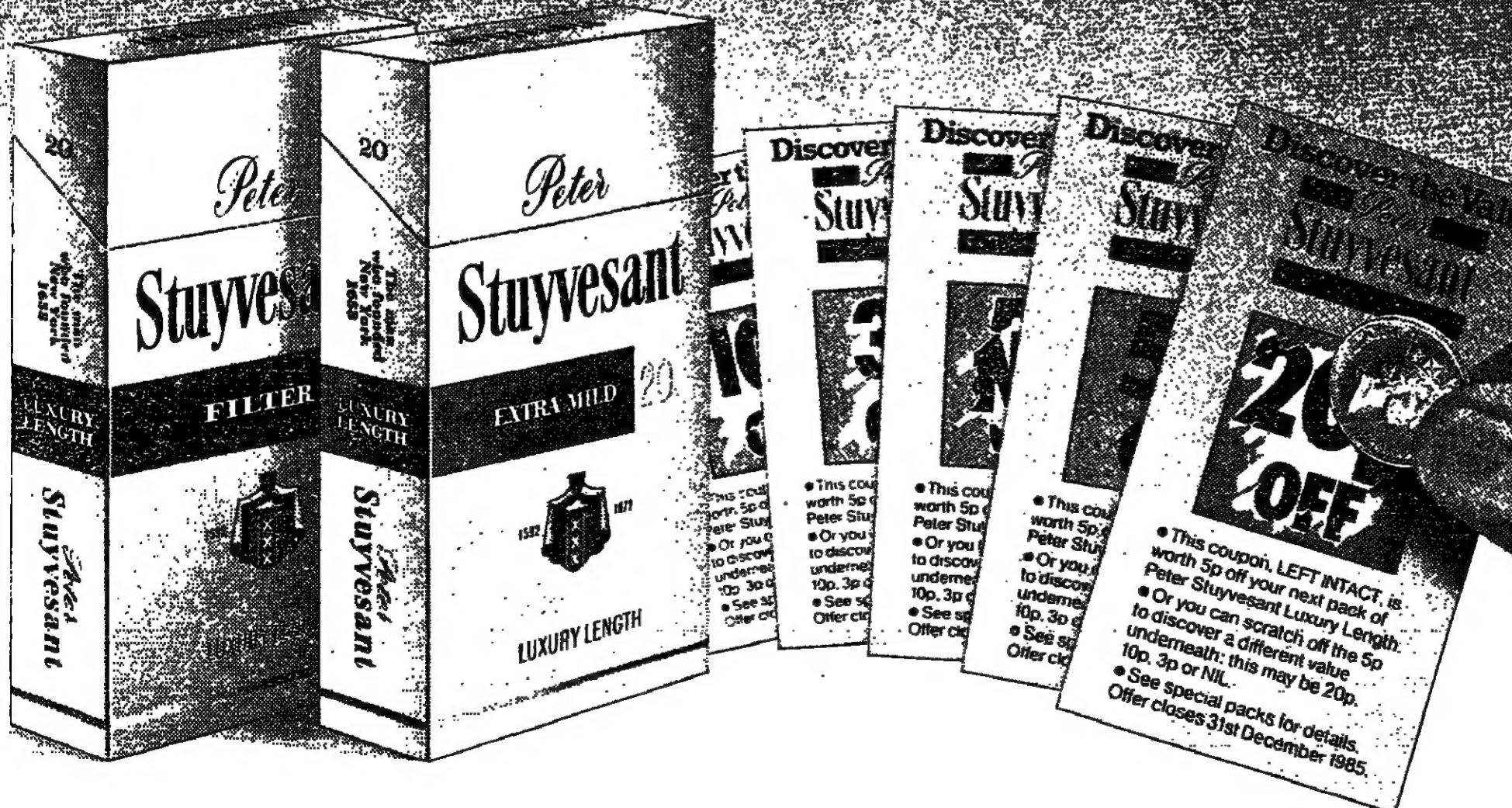
The Government's decision to report the two Tamil representatives, within days of the breakdown of the second round of talks aimed at reaching a settlement, was intended as a warning message to Tamils.

Although India was angered that the Sri Lankan Government did not produce more substantial proposals for devolution, they also expected the Tamil delegations to be prepared and willing to reach a negotiated settlement involving compromise.

● Seven killed: Six men and a woman workers at a navy base, were killed yesterday morning at Palappettar in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka when a landmine placed by Tamil separatists destroyed their jeep (Vijitha Yapa writes).

Meanwhile, in Jaffna 19 students began a hunger strike to demand the release of suspected Tamil guerrillas held without trial.

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Taiwan in the doldrums still resists lure of trade with Peking

From David Bonavia, Taipei

No casual visitor to Taiwan would guess that the island's economy is undergoing its most serious depression since 1973. Taipei, the capital, has expanded massively in the past decade and is now a relatively opulent modern city. The unemployment rate is low and the island's people are among the most prosperous in East Asia, with abundant food and consumer goods. But flagging exports and a weakening currency are worrying businessmen and government officials. Even the tourist boom has been in the doldrums this year.

The Taiwanese economy, which took off from American aid in the mid-1960s, with the help of textiles and other light industrial products, now boasts big chemical plants, a microchip industry and television sets which find ready markets even in mainland China.

Peking is keen to do more overt business with Taiwan, instead of conducting only indirect exchanges through Hong Kong, and fishing boats often trade with each other in the Taiwan Strait.

But the Nationalist Government headed by President Chiang Ching-kuo, the son of the late Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, is adamant that it will not relax its stand over official trade with the "communist bandits".

Largely because of the sluggishness of the US market, exports in the first seven months of this year totalled only \$2.76 billion (£1.9 billion), down by five per cent compared with the same period of last year.

The Taiwan yuan has been allowed to drift from 39.27 to the US dollar in 1984 to 40.35. It is hardly a big devaluation, but one that has aroused suggestions that the Government should play a more direct role in managing the currency.

Tourism is down by 2.5 per cent, mainly because more of the increasingly prosperous Japanese are choosing to spend their holidays elsewhere, even though Taiwan has a sentimental appeal to them since they ruled it from 1895 till 1945.

The Japanese are made more welcome here than in other parts of East and South-East Asia, and many of the older generation are fluent in Japanese. However, the Nationalist press spurned all sympathy for Japan over the recent anniversary of the 1945 atom bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, claiming that after the 1937 "rape of Nanking" and other war crimes, the Japanese deserved all they got.

US carriers in Arctic show of force

From Rodney Cowton, Norfolk, Virginia

One of Nato's largest and most important naval exercises begins today over the next three weeks more than 200 ships and submarines will take part in exercise Ocean Safari which begins on the east coast of America and finishes in the Arctic Circle.

In addition to testing procedures for escorting convoys of merchant ships across the Atlantic in war time, the exercise also introduces an important change in Nato policy in what the Russians are bound to regard as provocative action, a full-scale United States carrier battle group, led by the 78,500-ton carrier, USS America, will sail into the Norwegian Sea.

Although Western navies routinely send frigates and destroyers and submarines into the Norwegian Sea, they have traditionally avoided major shows of strength in the area.

However, there has for several months been public discussion on the need for American naval forces occasionally to be in the area. It is argued that it is necessary for training to have operations in the conditions of the far north, and that the Soviet Union should not be allowed to regard itself as having special rights in these international waters merely because they are on the main deployment routes from Russian naval bases.



Ryan White uses a telephone to take a science lesson he cannot attend

School bars Aids boy

Ryan White, aged 13, wants to go to school, but education authorities have banned him. He contracted Aids through a blood transfusion given to him as part of his treatment for haemophilia.

Ryan and his mother, Mrs Jeanne White, are appealing against the ban, but most of the teachers at the school and the parents of the 380 other pupils do not want him there.

Now he has a telephone link between his home in Kokomo, Indiana, and his classroom to enable him to continue his education, and a computer on which he writes and transmits his homework.

Riddle of Japanese jet crash remains

From Hikaru Kerns, Tokyo

The official commission investigating the Japan Air Lines crash on August 12, in which 520 people were killed, released an interim report on its findings yesterday.

The report added several details to the facts already known, but did not offer any explanation of the causes. The investigation has still not been able to determine whether the plane's problems were unique or were common to many Boeing 747 Jumbo jets, or whether the initial shock to the plane was due to something inside or an external impact.

The report was based partly on initial study of the voice and flight recorders. It is known that due to an "abnormal shock" about 12 minutes after take-off the nose lifted sharply upwards, the rudders immediately went out of control and the sensor for horizontal stability ceased working.

Thereafter, the pilot manoeuvred the plane only by controlling engine power. In eight minutes plunged 6,000ft.

The commission said the rest of the investigation, which will include extensive tests for metal fatigue, will take a "considerable time. Some experts believe it could be a year before the final report is completed.

Austrian growers seek wine tax cuts

Vienna (AP) - Thousands of wine growers demonstrated outside the Chancellery yesterday as Austrian leaders tried to work out a tough new wine purity law.

The Socialist-led Government has been trying to push through the legislation after an adulteration scandal crippled the country's wine industry. More than 40 vintners, dealers and chemists are in police custody, suspected of adding diethylene glycol to their wines.

The chemical, a component of anti-freeze, can cause damage to the nervous system, the kidneys and the liver.

The proposed legislation, which the Socialists say would be the strictest in Europe, would require that all authorities be approved by federal authorities. It would regulate packaging and blending and impose strict standards on labelling.

The farmers are demanding reductions in the taxes on wine in return for the tighter regulations.

The Chancellor, Dr Fred Sinowatz, was to meet the Opposition leader, Dr Alois Mock, today to try to put together a bipartisan agreement on the law, which Dr Mock has so far opposed.

Dr Sinowatz said Austria must give assurances to its foreign customers that future exports would be pure. Farmers claim taxes of up to 40 per cent on their product would be the last straw.

Marcos orders closure of sex cinema

From Keith Dalton, Manila

A government funded cinema where sexually explicit films attracted hordes of Filipinos and bitter condemnation from the Roman Catholic Church has been closed on the order of president Ferdinand Marcos.

The Experimental Cinema of the Philippines was part of a

\$21 million film centre constructed on the orders and under the regular supervision of Mrs Imelda Marcos.

Male-dominated crowds had flocked to the cinema for months to see full-frontal nudity and graphic sex films which, unlike films shown in local cinemas, were not subject to strict censorship.

Days of the shekel millionaires ending

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

The days of easy millions in Israel are numbered after the Government's announcement on Sunday that, as of next week, it is starting to replace the almost worthless shekel introduced less than five years ago with a new shekel, worth 1,000 times as much.

For the next three months salaries, prices and all transactions will still be calculated in old shekels, which will remain legal tender for the next year, beside the new shekel that goes into circulation on September 4.

But most Israelis will cease to be millionaires at a stroke when the new shekel finally takes over on January 1, with average monthly salaries of about half a million old shekels falling to the - nominally at least - much less princely sum of 500 new shekels.

Of course a loaf of bread will cost only 30 agorot, reviving faded memories of the agora, Israel's basic monetary unit that has become so debased over the past five years that it exists at present only in theory as the 100th part of a shekel. Twenty-five shekels or so for a pair of shoes is going to look like a bargain compared with the 25,000 old shekels they would cost today, as will the meagre three shekels, rather than 3,000, one would have to pay for a cinema ticket.

The whole thing is, of course, all a piece of sleight of hand, and should not in theory have any significant effect either on the buying power of the public, or on inflation, or any of the other ills besetting the Israeli economy.

Its main rationale is the need to simplify accounting and

computing procedures, with computers finding it increasingly difficult to cope with the huge figures generated by the 39,635 per cent devaluation in the old shekel since it was introduced just five years ago (in February, 1980, the United States dollar was equal to 3.75 shekels; today one dollar equals 1,490 shekels).

Another compelling reason for the change is the fact that, particularly for currency denominations of 1,000 shekels and less, it costs much more than the face value to produce the money.

The impossibility of the situation is dramatically highlighted by the figure published, in old shekels, for the state budget: 4,300,000,000,000 shekels (4.3 trillion!).

But some optimists are hoping that the new currency will have a positive effect psychologically, inculcating a new respect for the value of the shekel and hence a greater reluctance to part with it easily - something which could help the Government in its fight against inflation.

On the other hand, concern has been expressed that the confusion resulting from the changeover could lead to exploitation of foreigners and those sections of the population least equipped to resist it - the largely illiterate poor, who could be cheated by unscrupulous shopkeepers.

The fact that the new notes are identical to the old, minus three noughts, is only going to add to the confusion, and the police are reported to be bracing themselves for a possible spate of confidence frauds.

Israel may free Jewish terrorists

From Our Correspondent, Jerusalem

Some recently convicted members of the Jewish terrorist underground may be freed next month, under a broad amnesty proposed by the Israeli Police Minister, Mr Haim Bar-Lev, to relieve congestion in the jails.

Mr Bar-Lev has proposed to President Haim Harzog that some 1,500 prisoners, with less than three months left to serve, should be granted an early release during the coming year.

The first batch, of 400, including an unspecified number of the Jewish terrorists jailed for attacks on Arabs in the occupied West Bank earlier this year, would be out in time for the Jewish New Year celebrations, at the end of next month.

● Bookseller leaves: The East Jerusalem bookseller whom Israel has been trying to expel for a month as a suspected activist in Mr Yassir Arafat's Fatah organization, is due to leave for Jordan today.

Mr Khalil Abu Ziyad has agreed to leave Israel for three years, after which he can return if he can satisfy the Israelis he has not engaged in hostile activities.



Senhor Fumaro: priority is economic growth

Brazil picks Keynesian

Senhor Dilon Fumaro has been appointed Finance Minister of Brazil to replace Senhor Francisco Dornelles (Sao Paulo writes from Sao Paulo).

Senhor Fumaro said that his main priorities would be to ensure economic growth of at least 5 per cent a year.

By emphasizing the priority of economic growth, Senhor Fumaro, a Sao Paulo business man, aged 51, has clearly identified himself with the Keynesian faction of the Government, headed by the planning minister, Senhor Joao Sayad.

Isle signs Soviet fish deal

Canberra (AP) - The Pacific island state of Kiribati has signed an agreement allowing Soviet fishing vessels to operate in its waters, a government spokesman here said yesterday.

The agreement, to be reviewed after 12 months, permits up to 16 Soviet vessels to fish for tuna for an annual fee equivalent to £1.2 million. It was signed in Manila on August 18, the official said. The deal, which has no provision for landing rights or shore facilities, takes effect immediately.

Both Australia and the United States have expressed concern about the prospect of an increased Soviet influence in the South Pacific.

The agreement was completed after six months of negotiations between Moscow and Tarawa, capital of the tiny, impoverished nation of 56,000 people. Negotiations were held in Singapore and Manila because Kiribati had stipulated they not be conducted on its soil.

'NIFTY AND THRIFTY'



Operating through the rigours of London traffic to the ins and outs of Heathrow Airport speaks volumes for the 814's manoeuvrability, but how reliable is it?

"It's a Mercedes. I don't even expect anything to go wrong. The fleet made over 26,000 drops last year, over one million kilometres without a major problem. The 814 had a tough act to follow. But it's well on the way. It's done 48,750 kms between here and London so far, at 60 drops a week. And it still averages 18 mpg.

"With the cover of the Mercedes warranty on top, we'd struggle to do without it now."

It seems that the 'plane of the era and the Truck of the Year have a lot in common.

"Nifty and thrifty. We can't afford to be late because they can't afford to wait."

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Mercedes-Benz (United Kingdom) Ltd.

SPECTRUM

The five-legged race for the Olympics

Cities in five countries

are already fighting

for the right to hold the 1992 Olympic Games.

Britain's hopes lie with

Birmingham, a late contender and something of an outsider, but Barcelona, with three main facilities in place, is tipped as the favourite.

David Miller looks behind the scenes

Birmingham's nomination by the British Olympic Association (BOA) as a candidate to host the 1992 Olympic Games has entered the city for a steep climb in which the winner is decided not necessarily by how expertly he runs, but how well he knows the judges, timekeepers, and referees.

The 90-odd members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), who will vote at Lausanne in October next year, will be influenced by every imaginable factor concerning the seven nominated cities. Birmingham's rivals are Barcelona, the foremost contender, Paris, Amsterdam, Brisbane, New Delhi, and Belgrade.

Only the first four can be considered seriously: indeed, the best race analysis by those close to the competitors would be that the only question is whether anyone can gain the lobby support to accelerate past Barcelona.

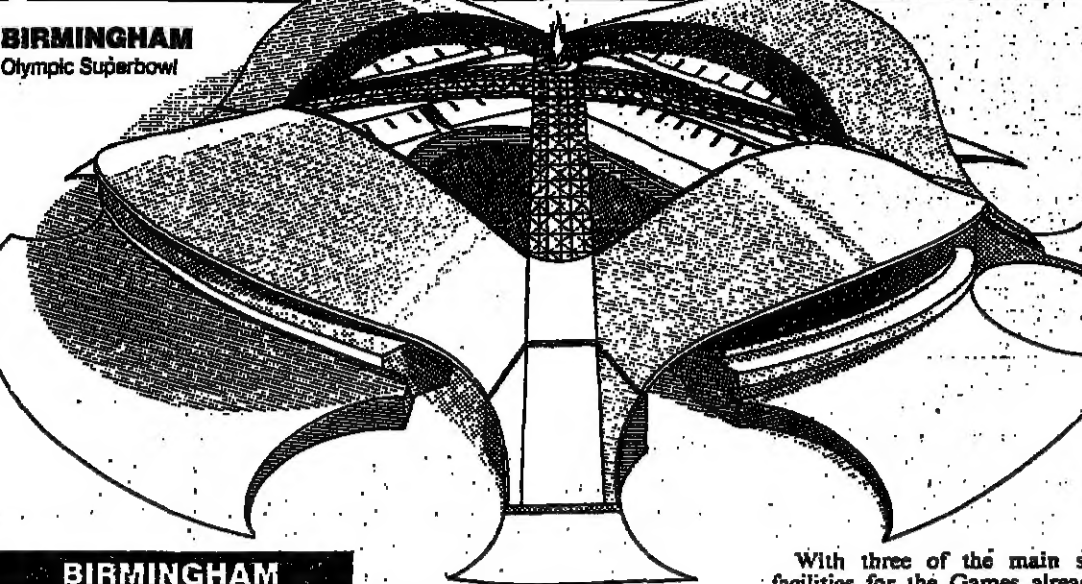
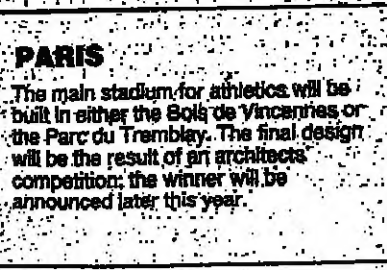
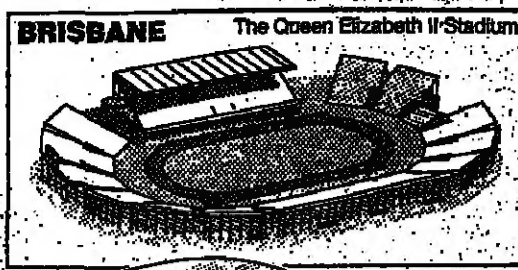
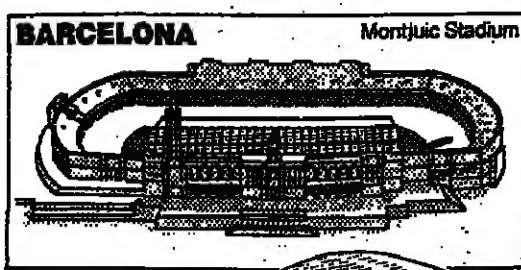
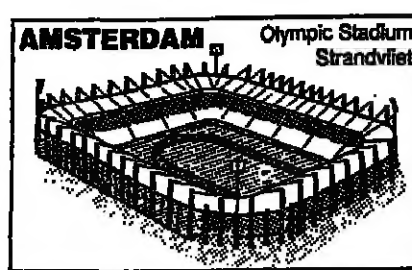
Barcelona is the favourite, not because the IOC president, Señor Juan Samaranch, lives there, nor because the city will have spent 25 million on publicity and promotion by the end of the campaign. Primarily, it is because this is the third time it has been in the candidates' ring - the first was some 50 years ago when it built the imposing stadium which will now be renovated. In addition it has outstanding facilities, thanks to excessive expenditure by the city and the government of the autonomous region of Catalonia.

In marked contrast to Birmingham, Barcelona is also historically and culturally the kind of city in which IOC members and their wives would like to spend three weeks. Many will never have been to Birmingham, and are unlikely now to have the opportunity to do so before the voting.

The IOC members who will make the final decision are elected internally and to a degree upon the preferences of the president. They represent in theory no-one but themselves. There is not, for instance, even a member for each of the 150 countries with a national Olympic site.

They decide on the evidence available, and to some extent on geographical or language group allegiance to a particular city. Latin America's Spanish-based allegiance to Barcelona is an obvious example.

Committee members may be informally influenced by companies, such as Adidas, which are close to sport and have a vested interest. It is thought that Herr Horst Dassler, chairman of Adidas, was instrumental in the swing of votes away from Nagoya in Japan to the South Korean capital Seoul for 1988 when the decision was made at Baden-Baden in 1981.



BIRMINGHAM

Giving the Games back to athletes

Birmingham has adopted an ambitious slogan for its bid: "We will give the Olympics back to the athletes." Behind this promise is the belief that the city can offer a unique combination of facilities to make life comfortable for the competitors and convenient for the security men who will protect them.

Some features of the scheme are already in place. The 100,000 square metre National Exhibition Centre (NEC), an eight-hall complex within 10 miles of the city centre has a proven track record of hosting large events.

Sited next to Birmingham international airport, alongside a London-linked railway station and only minutes from the motorway network, it would become the centre for nine indoor Olympic sports, and headquarters for Press and communications.

Alongside the NEC, the city council proposes to build a 70,000-seat Olympic stadium - a £105 million "superbowl" for field and track events and the opening ceremony, together with an Olympic village of about 2,000 bungalows for 14,000 athletes.

Birmingham believes that having so many indoor and field events - together with athletes' homes - within one site will ease security arrangements.

Within striking distance of the centre the city also proposes a new £16 million indoor arena for gymnastics at Perry Park, seating 15,000 spectators and a £20 million, 12,000-seat Olympic pool at Salford. A £5 million velodrome for cycling is planned for Sheldon, two miles from the NEC.

Five football grounds are in the Birmingham conurbation or at Coventry for Olympic matches, and the existing Alexander Stadium would be available for hockey.

Equestrian events and archery are planned for Stoneleigh Park, south of Coventry; rowing, canoeing and kayaking at the National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, and yachting at Wey-

mouth in Dorset - the most far-flung Olympic event.

Birmingham is Labour-controlled, but its councillors do not cringe at the idea of private funding and pledge that ratepayers will have to find, at most, £750,000 towards the promotion costs. Sponsorship and grants, they say, will take care of the rest.

Total estimated costs are about £524 million, of which £315 million would be operating costs and the remainder capital spending on facilities.

The two-thirds share of the conservatively estimated £330 million value of television rights, income from the Games and lotteries would, they say, produce a profit of between £30 million and £350 million, wiping out debts and leaving the city with impressive facilities for future use.

BARCELONA

Where the climate is just right

Barcelona's 44-year-old Socialist Mayor, Señor Pasqual Maragall, has a quick reply to questions about his city's humid summer weather: "It is exactly the Mediterranean climate in which the Olympics began - in antiquity."

But the Catalan capital is not basing its case for the Games on sunshine. It was first promised the Olympics in 1924, and had Baron Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic movement, not changed his mind and gone to Paris, it would have provided the evocative backdrop to the film *Chariots of Fire*.

Coubertin then said Barcelona would be the venue in 1936. By then, however, Spain was under the shadow of civil war and the venue was moved to Berlin.

"We believe we have very good reasons for deserving the 1992 summer Olympics," says Señor Maragall. "But from now until the decision is taken the most important thing for us will be to show all that by construction and not by more words."

With three of the main sports facilities for the Games already in place, the Mayor is referring to this summer's re-building of the Montjuïc sports stadium, with a capacity for 17,000, designed by a Japanese architect.

Montjuïc, opened in 1929 and intended for the 1936 Games, is to be completely refurbished. It, and the three other main sports zones - the Diagonal, the Valley of Hebron and Poblenou, where the Olympic village will be situated - are all within eight miles of one another.

To build the village and provide accommodation for the athletes, Spain's state railways have agreed to pull up their old lines along the coastal strip, which will also be developed as a future money-spinning residential zone.

To step up the promotion campaign Señor Maragall last week named as his new chief executive Señor Josep Abad, until now the 38-year-old director general of Barcelona's trade fairs.

Two important Catalans are on the international Olympic Committee. Señor Jose Antonio Samaranch, the president, is a former mayor of Barcelona and Señor Carlos Ferrer Salazar, the industrialist and former chairman of Spain's equivalent of the CBI, was recently elected a member.

Having studied the results of the last 15 Games, Barcelona reckons the cost of hosting the Olympics split half and half between investments and organization, would be \$500 million (£360 million).

Barcelona and the nearby coastal resorts reckon they are uniquely well situated for hotel accommodation.

Catalonia's big business men are behind Señor Maragall. His argument is that Spain's only really European big city must seize the opportunity the Games provide for a major face-lift. The information technology required for 1992 Games is only one such aspect.

Catalonia has always expressed itself best through the arts. Its publicity effort, already massively aided by private business, has even recruited Salvador Dali who has ceded reproduction rights to the promotion campaign of his oil painting "cosmic Athlete", depicting a disc thrower.

PARIS

The main stadium for athletics will be built in either the Bois de Vincennes or the Parc du Tremblay. The final design will be the result of an architects' competition; the winner will be announced later this year.

AMSTERDAM

Everything within cycling distance

Amsterdam, preyed upon by every ailment today's cities seem prone to - drugs, filth, traffic chaos, inner city decay and lack of money - would a few years ago have seemed an unlikely venue for the Games.

Now this has changed. As was to be expected - when the idea of a Dutch candidacy first cropped up last year, both Amsterdam and Rotterdam were in the running.

It seems doubtful whether the Dutch would have entertained the idea of hosting the Olympics if Los Angeles had not proved it could be organized without incurring financial disaster. Amsterdam now hopes to make a profit of 15 million guilders (about £2.3 million).

If the Games go to Amsterdam they are likely to be "cosy". About 85 per cent of all events will take place within a radius of 8.5 km. As Mr Krijn Reijnders, who heads the planning committee, puts it: "Everything would be within cycling distance."

No financial outlay from the Government is required and the building of the necessary infrastructure will require 31,600 man-years of labour, which would not be unexpected in a country which has the highest unemployment rate in the Common Market.

Even if the Games go to another city, the 6.5 million guilders (about £1.5 million) that will have been spent in promoting Amsterdam will have been well-spent on what many like to think of as Amsterdam's renaissance.

BRISBANE

Hoping one success leads to another

Brisbane's bid has been spurred by the undoubted success of the 1982 Commonwealth Games. However, it remains a moot point whether the city will be able to handle the pressure of a sporting festival of the size of a modern Olympics.

The facilities carried over from the Commonwealth Games are excellent. The Queen Elizabeth II stadium (track and field), the Chandler Sports Centre (swimming, diving, badminton, cycling and weightlifting) and a number of other smaller venues, either purpose-built or upgraded for the 1982 games, are still in place.

Brisbane City Council intends to have plans ready by next year for an Olympic village and a yachting centre. This will create a new suburb at Boondall, about 16 kilometres from the city centre and a few kilometres north of the site of Brisbane's new international airport.

Present estimates put the outlay at around A\$600 million to A\$700 million (about £300 to £400 million). It is not clear how Brisbane

would meet the cost but given that the State of Queensland prides itself on being the free enterprise centre of Australia, there must be a good chance that American style marketing and promotion would play a large part.

The big question mark must be over Brisbane's infrastructure. There were complaints of large traffic jams around the major venues during the Commonwealth Games with only 26,000 visitors from overseas and other parts of Australia.

Accommodation, or rather the shortage of it, would also pose a problem.

Brisbane is not an easy city in which to travel, being extremely spread out on the Los Angeles model. But perhaps the largest single thing working against the city is simply distance. As one resident put it: "Brisbane is a very long way from anywhere."

Brisbane does have some things going for it: an ideal climate; a relatively pollution-free environment and some of the world's most beautiful coastal scenery. The most likely weather would be blue skies, low humidity and temperatures around the high 20s Celsius.

PARIS

President gives his official backing

Paris is seeking to use the centenary of Baron Pierre de Coubertin's appeal for the revival of the Olympics in support of its candidature. It has received official backing from President Mitterrand, M Jacques Chirac, Mayor of Paris, and M Michel Giraud, President of the Ile de France region.

The scheme, which is expected to cost some 10 billion francs (£800 million) involves the dispersal of the various sporting events around the capital and its environs.

The most distant sites would be Fontainebleau (40 miles south of Paris) for equestrian events and the modern pentathlon; Mantes La Jolie (37 miles west on the Seine) for rowing and canoeing; Villepinte (15 miles north-west) for volleyball and basketball.

The Olympic village would be built on the eastern outskirts of Paris at Berry-Tolbiac, while the main Olympic stadium is to be set up either in the Bois de Vincennes or in the nearby Parc du Tremblay. Where possible existing sites would be used - the Grand Palais for fencing, the Champs de Mars for archery, the Roland-Garros Stadium for tennis, the Champs Elysees for the opening ceremony, and the Eiffel Tower to carry the Olympic flame.

It is hoped that the Olympics would pay their own way. But in case of any deficit, it has been agreed that the Government should shoulder half the cost. The City of Paris a quarter, and the Ile de France region the remaining quarter.

The case for the choice of Paris is spelt out in a 48-page glossy brochure which states, with typical French love of rhetoric: "There are places... where olympic spirit finds its favourite environment because the centuries have engraved on men's souls words which transcend races, frontiers and ages. Paris is one of those places."

Reports: Craig Seton (Birmingham), Richard Wigg (Barcelona), Robert Schull (Amsterdam), Tony Duboulin (Brisbane) and Diana Geddes (Paris)

Why our trees are dying

Town trees throughout Britain are suffering severe damage from insects and fungus diseases this summer, with the effects being made worse as a result of poor weather early in the year. "There is serious cause for concern," says Paul Canneaux, the Greater London senior horticultural officer. "Newly planted trees are particularly at risk, but even some 70-year-old specimens are dying."

The capital's most distinctive tree, the London plane, is especially hard hit. The branches bare of leaves along London's main avenues are victims of anthracnose disease, caused by the fungus *Gnomonia platanus*. In "normal" circum-

stances the branches recover over a period of years. This year the effects are more drastic as a result of poisoning of the trees by the tons of de-icing salt tipped on roads and pavements during the exceptionally cold winter.

"Anthracnose isn't a killer by itself," says Mr Canneaux, "but there is cause for alarm if the trees are already weak after having to cope with all that salt. We are very worried for example, about the planes we have planted along the South Bank at a cost of thousands of pounds. We have had a run of four or five cold, wet springs, which aid the fungus to develop. If we don't have some warmer conditions next year, the effects could be devastating."

Similar fears are expressed by David Rose of the Forestry Commission's Alice Holt Lodge research station near Farnham, Surrey, which receives reports of tree damage around the UK. "Planes are also suffering salt damage in places such as Bristol, Bath and Cardiff" he says, "but we shall not be able to assess the full extent of the damage until next year when we see how far trees have been able to recover from the combined effect of the salt and anthracnose."

He adds that it takes so long for trees to overcome unfavourable conditions that many beeches are still not fully restored from the effects of the successive droughts in 1975 and 1976, followed by 1983 and 1984.

Precise estimates of the number of trees affected are difficult to come by because most local councils lack the resources to keep proper records. The London Borough of Wandsworth is one of the few which has counted its street trees and put them on a computer.

For planes are not the only species at risk. "There are localized instances of fireblight affecting trees such as mountain ash," says Mr Canneaux, who also points out that Britain's urban arboriculturalists face special problems in controlling disease or insect infestation: "In the US they spray all their city trees regularly, but we don't have the equipment to do that."

His main fear is that because trees under stress grow old before their time the country's town trees will have a much

shorter life expectancy and have to be replaced more frequently at enormous costs.

David Rose reports: "Some times are showing signs of quite severe aphid damage, with the horse chestnut scale-insect also possibly involved, and in places as far apart as Manchester and Milton Keynes we are hearing that smaller trees, such as cherries and ornamental hawthorns, are facing root killing by the fungus *Phytophthora*."

The weather is once again to blame for providing the damp conditions for the fungus to prosper. The good news, he stresses, is that in all the cases of tree damage this year there is no prospect of a plague on the scale of Dutch elm disease that killed



Dead wood: defoliated plane tree in Kennington, south London

most of Britain's 23 million specimens. Ten years after the disaster, the elm is now slowly re-establishing itself in parts of southern Britain, according to the Forestry Commission.

Most spectacular of the afflictions which have threatened street trees recently, even if it is not normally a hazard to their long-term health, is the brown-tail moth epidemic. It was first recorded as a serious pest in 1720. The good news here is that there have been population explosions once or twice each century since then - so the chances are that the leaf-eating moths will disappear of their own accord.

AridTech was set up, with substantial backing from British investors, by three Californians as recently as June 1983. One of the three, Mark Liggett, used to be principal investigator on a NASA programme evaluating geological applications of satellite imagery. In the 1970s, he pioneered techniques to identify water sources from Landsat data, and, as is often the case, skills developed on US space and other federal research programmes have been adapted for commercial use.

Space age cure for drought?

Andrew Lycett on a new scientific twist to the art of water divining

Star Wars has a human face. A California company, AridTech, claims to be able to predict the presence of ground water from specially processed satellite photographs. Now it has adapted its technique to help developing countries to find the one natural resource that could most alleviate sickness, hunger, drought, even famine and environmental breakdown.

Since the mid-1970s, the military and big business have made good use of satellite pictures. American Landsat images can pinpoint a Soviet submarine breaking through the ice in the Arctic circle or a Libyan troop movement in Chad. They can also supply important geophysical information for oil and mineral prospecting companies. AridTech, based in Los Angeles, is identifying untapped ground water resources precisely from these same satellite images.

There are still more than one billion people in the world without safe drinking water and nearly two billion with inadequate sanitation. To draw attention to this fact, the United Nations has declared the 1980s to be the "water decade".

As its water-divining contribution, AridTech has spent time and resources on a particularly dry and inhospitable spot of Eastern Sudan, close to the Ethiopian border. The company now hopes, in conjunction with a new British-based international charity, the Water Fund, to develop a promising 1,000-acre site there.

AridTech was set up, with substantial backing from British investors, by three Californians as recently as June 1983. One of the three, Mark Liggett, used to be principal investigator on a NASA programme evaluating geological applications of satellite imagery. In the 1970s, he pioneered techniques to identify water sources from Landsat data, and, as is often the case, skills developed on US space and other federal research programmes have been adapted for commercial use.

Liggett says Landsat images, which are available relatively cheaply, at 2,000 dollars (£1,400) each, are useful because they allow the prospector to look at an area of 100 miles square quickly. The company's expertise lies in "specially processing the satellite images to enhance the geological features which relate to ground water".

Other sophisticated water-surveying techniques are then brought into play. Here the resident expert is Joseph Birman, the company's vice-president, who patented a survey technique that allows someone

at ground level to predict the presence of water through changes in surface temperature.

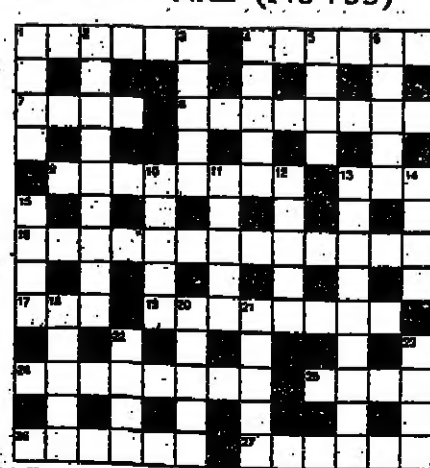
The major success story so far is the company's 14,000-acre Cadiz Agricultural Project, 60 miles from the nearest town in the middle of the Mojave Desert in Southern California. In just over a year AridTech has identified the necessary water resources, established two farming test-plots (one for fruit and vegetables, the other for cereals), and now plans to lease land, with its vastly enhanced value, to a suitable agricultural development company.

Following success at Cadiz, the company is now working on five more sites in California. It has done preliminary studies in Dubai and Australia. Its *Piece de resistance*, a real contribution to one of the world's most stricken areas, could, however, be its efforts in Eastern Sudan.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 733)

- ACROSS
1 Dodge (6)
4 Forceful drive (6)
7 Praise (4)
8 Custom (8)
9 Slovenly (8)
13 Latin thing (3)
16 Raw (13)
17 Eviscerate (3)
19 Ground explosive (4,4)
24 Cushing (8)
25 Tiller (4)
26 Smother (6)
27 More expensive (6)

- DOWN
1 Savage (4)
2 Exuberant (9)
3 Spirit (5)
4 Socially banned (5)
5 Ceremony (4)
6 Swampy grass (3)
10 Student (5)
11 Grey wader (5)
12 Ambition (5)
13 Story teller (9)
14 Team (4)
15 Chant (4)
18 Not serviceable (5)
20 I-mbible (5)



- SOLUTION TO No 732
ACROSS: 1 Across 5 Cope 8 Exact 9 Persist 11 Aperture 13 Data 15 Exclusive 17 Inman 18 Mistake 21 Admired 22 Pater 23 Brat
DOWN: 2 Crave 3 Opt 4 Superficially 5 Curb 6 Grime 7 Scagelma 10 Transitory 12 Trug 14 Veat 16 Crammer 19 Exol 20 Grit 22 Pa



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WEDNESDAY PAGE

The black and white of fostering

Many boroughs now refuse to place children in foster homes of a different race, causing some bitter arguments. Liz Hodgkinson reports

There are at the moment about 30,000 children in local authority care, and foster families are continually being sought for all of them. But it's no longer just a matter of placing an abandoned or parentless child with a willing family. A disproportionate number of children in institutions come from ethnic minorities, or are of mixed parentage.

Increasingly, local boroughs are refusing to place these children with white families. This policy, which began in earnest late last year, has had the effect of splitting social workers, care officers and foster parents down the middle.

It came to a tragic head in the case of Jasmine Beckford, who was placed with a family in Brent who were designated culturally inappropriate, as the father was part-Asian. She was removed and placed back with her family. It led to her death.

But the militants - those who want an absolute, unbreakable rule of no trans-racial fostering - say that the policy works in the majority of cases, and that it's only the mistakes that hit the headlines. They are insisting that children are actually better off remaining in care than being placed with the 'wrong' ethnic family.

The non-militant view is that happy families and stable backgrounds are more important than considerations of race or colour, and that the most urgent priority is to get children out of institutional homes.

Adherents to both viewpoints maintain that they have the best interests of the children at heart. But are race-matching policies divisive and a form of apartheid, as some argue, or are they the only sensible solution?

John Small, assistant director of social services in Hackney, has been the main driving force behind the race-matching decision. Thanks to him, there will now be no further trans-racial placements in Hackney.

A former leader of New Black Families in Lambeth, John Small has been working hard to recruit suitable black families for black children. He says: "In Hackney, we now have a team of black social workers to find and assess black foster families."

"From my own experience of running adoption programmes, I realized that there were a significant number of black children displaying racial identity confusion, and denying that they were black. Many white families, with the best will in the world, simply don't understand that looking after black children is a different ball game."

"We feel therefore that black children who cannot be found suitable homes, would be better off in a residential establishment inside their own community, so that they are not cut off from their roots. We must put the interests of the children at heart, and accept that we are living in a racist society."

"Black and ethnic people need to develop survival skills, and this means not denying their racial origin. There are so many white liberals around who don't accept that we have racial problems in Britain today."

"It has been argued that there are not enough black families to go round but there are - they just need finding and recruiting. I've spoken to so many white families who have adopted or fostered black children and they admit they didn't know what they were letting themselves in for. But black families are already aware of the problems, and are in a far better position to understand the needs of a black foster child."

A different standpoint is taken by Ben Brown, assistant divisional director of Dr Barnardo's homes in London. He was himself a black foster



Black families are in a better position to understand the needs of a black foster child

Ben Brown (above) assistant divisional director of Dr Barnardo's, London

Happy family (left): Bill Bayliss with, from left, daughter Susan, granddaughter Sarah, son Robin, son-in-law Orville, wife Marion and adopted son Jonathan

child with a white family and says "I know from experience what it's like to have no identity."

"Some social workers imagine that if you place a black child with a black family, all your problems will be over. But I've known of many occasions where it didn't work out at all. The biggest lesson I've learnt is: rather than having a rigid racial policy, try consulting the child first."

"This is quite a new concept in foster care, and it's easy to forget that the child in question may have a valid point of view. Some black children will tell you they don't want black foster parents."

"All children want to have a real mum and dad, and if returning them to their biological parents is not a possibility, a stable foster family is the next best thing. Having said that, Dr Barnardo's will place children with a culturally appropriate family wherever possible. But if it comes to a question of staying in care or going into the 'wrong' racial family, we'll choose the family."

"There's no doubt that all children flourish in a family home, and the issue of black or white family is really secondary."

Bill Bayliss, housing officer for Haringey Council, and his wife have fostered about 200 children, many of them black. Apart from his own three children, now all grown up, Bill has a black foster daughter aged 19 and an adopted black son aged four.

He says: "In most boroughs, you will find a big difference between the rigid, stated policy and what actually happens. It's true that children can be damaged by not being in an appropriate ethnic group. On the other hand, all children are damaged by being in care anyway."

"The situation is very complex, and it's not just a matter of placing black children with black families. There are many variables of religion, race, social background, culture - and all these mean no easy answers. Each racial group and sub-group living in this country has its own culture and, for some children, the appropriate family simply doesn't exist."

"In Islamic cultures, for example, there is no tradition of fostering, and it's almost impossible to find families for Muslim children. Then you can't place a Bengali child with a Pakistani family - they hate each other's guts. There are hardly any Greek Cypriot foster families, but a lot of these children come into care."

"It's nonsensical to talk in crude racial terms. It's not even a matter of obvious race or ethnic culture. You'd probably cause a lot of damage trying to place a Glaswegian child with an upper middle-class family from South-east England, for example, or vice versa."

"If you take colour as the main consideration, this is being racist, and may not be very helpful. I believe we should accept that we do live in a racist society, and make every effort to close the gaps. I would certainly draw the line at keeping children in institutions, just because an appropriate ethnic foster family is not available. Some placements simply don't exist."

According to a 45-year study of adoption and fostering, carried out from 1924 to 1968, 74 per cent of trans-racial placements were completely successful. Many black children express a preference for white families, as they believe they will then be financially better off. Some theorists have put forward the view that the so-called 'identity crisis' is a trumped-up myth.

Many Caribbean families living in this country are virtually indistinguishable from whites, and to talk of roots is so much a nonsense, says V. K. Nishona, a black foster parent and executive member of the Lewisham Community Relations Council. Bill Bayliss adds: "For every child a social worker alleges has been damaged by living with a white family, I can show you a successful one. My own daughter is such an example. She has been with us since she was six weeks old; she is popular, bright, completely normal, and has no identity crisis."

We have always been careful to maintain links with her own family, as we are now doing with our four-year-old. You have to be sensitive, and not cut the children off from their roots. Also, it's important to have support groups and not imagine you know all the answers."

Fostering is basically about getting children back to their own families, and if foster parents can work closely with biological parents, colour should not be a problem. The fact of the matter is, we need far more foster parents of all races and it's a bad policy to cut off supply deliberately, simply because of the 'wrong' race."

"The biggest problems occur with handicapped children who may need special skills care. Here, you need a family who know how to cope, and race should not enter into it."

The National Foster Care Association, which works to find more suitable foster families, feels that much of the talk about no trans-racial fostering is so much pie in the sky."

Director Christine Reeves says: "We believe the family environment must be put before racial considerations, and it comes down to a matter

of supply and demand. As yet, far more white than black families are coming forward to foster."

"It's true that we have not made enough effort in the past to find black families, and this is now changing. But there are so many variations on religion and tribal groups, that it's not simply a matter of the right colour, or even country of origin."

"With foster care, the main aim is to get the child back to its true parents, and this should be the first concern of the local authorities. We hear about the bad cases, but on the whole the policy of trying to rehabilitate children is a good one, and is largely successful."

"Where family problems remain chronic, children stay in care for longer, and then the racial issue may become more important. Some biological parents never want the children back and, if a rigid racial policy is adopted, they may have to stay in care permanently."

"I feel this issue has become so political that the children are being used as tools, and that their best interests are being neglected."

"We had a dramatic example of this recently. A handicapped black girl needed special care and we found just the right family for her, where the father was a doctor and had made a study of just this kind of handicap. Yet he was rejected simply because he was white."

Our association has the strong feeling that the new militant movement is creating sharper divisions and more racial disharmony. We've been pleased enough in the past to get children into good foster homes."

"This policy, which is being adopted by more and more both in and out of London, is making our job even more difficult."

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Neighbourliness and how to achieve it

Does God really mean us to love our neighbour - particularly our next-door neighbour?

The whole concept of neighbourliness is based on the assumption that close proximity engenders friendship, but as likely as not it will engender a desire to move house by 2 there are so many pitfalls to be negotiated on the way to a successful relationship with the people next door.

You may not like them, for example, which considerably reduces your chances of success. You may find yourself involved in a difference of opinion about the exact boundaries of your respective domains.

Even if your boundaries themselves are not actually in dispute, some neighbourly relations are dogged by a neurotic anxiety to repulse all violations with ferocious swiftness.

In fact, should you be in any doubt about your current standing in your neighbour's favour, try the boundary infringement test. Just park your car so that four inches of its rear end overlap with next door's drive. Watch casually from your living-room window. All is not well if after two minutes someone darts out from next door and puts a piece of paper under your windscreen wiper. It will be unsigned, addressed to no one, and will tell you not to park there again. If you're lucky, it will contain spelling mistakes.

Or you could try letting a climbing rose, or a branch of cherry blossom, stray over the fence into their air-space. If, in the dead of night, it is hacked off to the exact point at which it crosses the boundary three feet above the fence, then you can assume they are not happy about something. Ten to one, it's your kitchen extension.



MRS IONS' DIARY

by the equivalent of about two kitchen extensions last summer, which was a shame because we had almost begun to notice each other again after a catastrophe involving sewage pipes, during which we each suspected the other of unspeakable habits.

My husband was hosing our parched grass while our neighbours were coaxing their barbeques into just the right mix of conflagration versus cool smoke. Two minutes after they had it just right, he handed the hose to our five-year-old son with instructions to water only the trees at the back of the garden.

This he did until the delicious smells of charcoal and grilling chops attracted his attention and, still carrying the hose, he wandered over to have a look. Unable to distinguish sufficiently between the direction of his gaze and the direction of the hose, he had the fire nicely put out in seconds.

We saw the whole scene from our kitchen window and waved at him frantically to turn the hose away. Paralysed by the enormity of what he was doing, however, he carried on to put out both our neighbours.

The barbecue was flooded to within an inch of the rim and the chops were gently bumping into each other on the surface of the water. Our neighbour, soaked, stripped to the waist and holding erect a three-pronged fork, looked as if he was auditioning for the part of Neptune.

Nevertheless, however much we irritate each other over the garden fence, it has to be said that, when I am faced with a long winter's night alone in the house, the presence of our neighbours is enormously comforting. At 11.30, and after three false burglar alarms, if I saw them through the window dead-heading the daffodils I should rush out and fall on their necks. At 3am, after insomnia culminating in a near-ghost scare, I begin to wonder whether to ask them all round for drinks. Just before dawn, I want to hammer on their front door and beg forgiveness for our kitchen extension.

For we wouldn't be without them. We love them, really. It's just the things they do that drive us mad.



The fences which mark these boundaries can create some friction of their own, particularly those faint-hearted fences that were never meant to stand upright. Nobody minds who owns the fence until it falls over, whereupon it becomes automatically the property of the person next door.

The gardens themselves generate tension, and most of us have experienced the usual garden rivalry where each side pushes the other to extremes of fanatical tidiness or lush neglect.

We accidentally set relationships back with our neighbours

Alliance Building Society announces new interest rates.

The following rates of interest will apply to Share and Deposit Accounts from 1st September 1985:

Net		Gross equivalent at 30% income tax rate
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Interest on all other Share and Deposit Accounts will be reduced by 1.25% net p.a. from 1st September 1985, except 7-Day and Extra Interest Shares accounts where the new rates will be the equivalent of 8.6% net paid annually. Fixed Rate Bond, Index-Linked and S.A.V.E. accounts remain unchanged.



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Live like a lord on fish, flesh and fowl

In the last of our series Lord Gower, Minister for the Arts, gives special recipes for ordinary food

I like food very much and have to battle against greed. The excuse, for my generation, is that we grew up in the 'austerity' - wise Lord Woolton would insist on quotation marks - of the war and postwar years. Patriotism, for us, is not the memory of delicious things eaten when we were young. Indeed I think of childhood as a culinary trauma from which it is my daily duty to escape.

Political life does not always make this easy. Eating for one's country, as politicians and diplomats must, requires iron will and digestion as well as a steady and flexible tact. Wilting grawns and wilted lettuce, processed turkey and sugary sock pudding that seems to have been sprinkled with sequins from a 1950s ballroom does food of this kind exist beyond the world of functions?

If cooking is part of a culture, as I believe it must be, ours is still in trouble saved, outside London and a handful of country restaurants, by our ethnic minorities. Roll on the day when they take over mass catering as well.

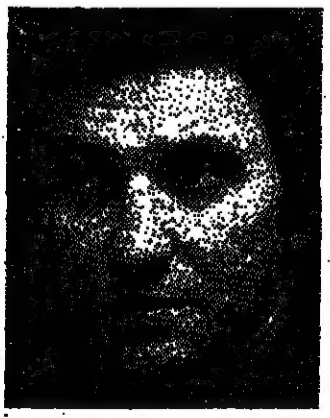
At home and on holiday in Wales I raise a toast to the memory of official food with Rigola, Bulgarian Cabernet, Bardolino and, alas rarely, a floating cherished Burgundy. I only drink at meals, and so cook the

kind of food that goes with the wines I like. My wife likes my food, and approves of being cooked for. She nurtures a distant folk-memory of my being untidy in the kitchen and refusing to wash up as I go along, but nowadays I am liberated in this direction also. I keep knives sharp and am sparing of utensils.

Puritan about the Magimix, I use a double boiler and mortar-and-pestle for sauces. The latter is a lot quicker and more efficient than it looks. A Cypriot friend, owner of the marvellous Skorpis restaurant in London's Finchley Road, has just given me a charcoal grill with a revolving spit. My holiday task is teaching myself to grill fish and meat really well.

The difficult thing about cooking is shopping. As yesterday's luxuries become today's necessities, chicken and beef, salmon and trout are being raised for mass markets; air transport obliterates the seasonal variation of vegetables; cookbooks, an innocent and lucrative pornography, outsell foodstuffs with texture and flavour. Getting hold of food that tastes needs time and discipline.

In my part of Wales there is, of course, wonderful lamb; but beef and chicken are still best at Wholefoods in Paddington Street, London W1. They are expensive but surely it is better for health and pocket to eat meat once or twice a week only, and on other occasions to use the scraps to flavour vegetable



THE GUEST COOK

or pasta and leftovers to make gratins. Here are three ways of cheering up ordinary fish (farmed), chicken (battery) and beef (unhung). They work well with a Soave or white Macon, a Bardolino or Fleurie, a Rioja or big Rhone. There is also one accidental discovery for when two people meet over claret, whether Bulgarian or Beychevelle.

Elisa's trout

Buy 'farm-fresh' rainbow, gutted not beheaded. Cover each trout with two or three thin lemon slices and one more slice cut in half in the aperture. Crumble a bayleaf on each fish

and a tablespoon of diced onion or spring onion or shallot. Sprinkle with black pepper and a little olive oil. Leave for not less than 15 minutes, not more than six hours.

Without shaking off the bits and pieces of the marinade, dredge fish in flour to which a lot of nutmeg has been added, plus more black pepper and crumbled bayleaf. Shallow-fry in a mix of olive oil and butter. The fat should be very hot and the trout skin black on both sides.

Serve on a hot plate and sprinkle with coarse salt. Best without vegetables, but mashed potato will do.

Poached stuffed chicken

Throw away any fat you find in the cavity of the chicken. Sprinkle the bird lightly, in and out, with lemon juice and olive oil. Leave for not less than 15 minutes. Make a stuffing by adding an egg, a tablespoon of breadcrumbs, ditto of parsley and the chopped heart and liver of the chicken to best quality pork sausage-meat. I also add a teaspoon of chopped garlic. Stuff the chicken (I don't tie it) tightly and place in a deep pot. Cover with cold water. Skim as it comes to the boil.

Now add peppercorns, giblets, parsley stalks, chopped celery or a leek and a chicken or vegetable stock cube. Poach (that is simmer) for 1 1/4 hours; it will depend on your bird. Cut the chicken and stuffing into serving pieces, throwing away the skin; put pieces on a

warm serving dish and ladle a little broth over them. Serve with vinaigrette sauce (I just beat olive oil into a tablespoon of Dijon mustard) to which you have added parsley, chopped shallot and a soft-boiled egg.

Cold spiced steak

Have a whole side of trimmed rump cut 1 1/2 inches thick. Marinate in a little olive oil and red wine for as long as you can. Grind coarsely four tablespoons or so of black peppercorns with two tablespoons of juniper berries. Paint steak thickly with Dijon mustard on both sides and press in spices. Fry steak for eight minutes a side in butter and olive oil. I use fresh fat for each side and turn the steak over, wearing gloves and having drained the pan first, by placing a large plate over the pan. Allow to cool and refrigerate for an hour before serving. Serve cut into long thin slices. Good with a potato and celeriac purée.

Peking Grouse

For each person: butter (unsalted) and a thick slice of good quality white bread (I use Justin de Blank). Place upon it the complete breast of a cold (lukewarm is even better) grouse, roasted pink. Smear breasts with a fruit jelly with added herbs (I use Eisenham's apple-and-thyme), then cover with spring onions sliced longways. Eat with coarse salt, black pepper and wine a bit better than you can afford.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Mac and the Cossacks

Stand by for an almighty row in the publishing world. The Macmillan family is said to be furious that Century Hutchinson has given house room to a book by Count Nikolai Tolstoy which takes over the forcible repatriation of thousands of Cossacks to the Soviet Union at the end of the war. Tolstoy claims to have produced fresh evidence that the Earl of Stockton, then minister resident in Italy, was personally culpable. Lord Stockton acknowledged in his *War Diaries* that to hand over the Cossacks "is condemning them to slavery, torture and probably death" but the alternative meant deeply offending the Russians and breaking the Yalta agreement. Tolstoy is adamant that Stockton's account is "shot full with inaccuracies". He claims he has "documents to show exactly what his role was in the repatriation which should never have happened." Whether the book - *The Minister and the Massacres* - is published as planned in January remains to be seen.

On target

I was amused by the front page story yesterday that Jeffrey Archer may get the deputy chairmanship of the Tory party - "Mrs Thatcher is believed to want him to help revitalize the party before the next election." When, a year ago, I ran a story beginning...

Mrs Thatcher must be desperate, in the latest effort to counter recent difficulties she has, I am told, drafted in the bumptious best-selling novelist, Jeffrey Archer. But I was lured by her tomorrow and, according to my note, has promised Number 10 one or two ideas "for this FR business for the Government". Archer is, of course, a Tory.

Archer rang me and yelled, "Totally untrue. I won't just be taking you to the Press Council for this. I'll take you to the highest court in the land. Furthermore you have personally ruined my lunch with Margaret tomorrow."

Homeless

Junior employment minister Peter Morrison will have to withdraw one of the three home addresses he gives in *Who's Who* next year. The family seat on the Scottish island of Islay has just been sold to an American, forcing Morrison's father, Lord Margdale, into somewhat more modest quarters on the estate. The Morrisons, who have hosted Margaret Thatcher, Norman Tebbit et al at Islay, are selling the contents of the house. Everything, it seems, must go. Among the lots which Christie's in Glasgow will be offering are a wheelchair (expected price £20), a towel rail (£3), and a John Woodcut painting. Huntsman and Hounds (£60,000).

Ex-chequered

Denis Healey does not reduce everyone to quivering wrecks with his notorious penchant for the use of expletives. While holidaying in the Highland village of Kichonan he appeared in the village shop to buy six bottles of tonic water. When he found he had left his money in the hotel he offered to return and pay later. The assistant whisked the bottles away, fixed him with a look - the sort, I am told, which would outface a rutting stag at 50 paces - and said "Sorry. We don't give credit to people with no fixed address."

BARRY FANTONI



"Perhaps we should stop playing them at rugger"

Port side

Mischievous revelations about Tony Banks, Labour MP and chairman of the GLC, win his former flatmate Rodney James today's bottle of champagne in the Diary's quest for early tales about the well-known James, former treasurer of the University of York Conservative Association and Monday Club, writes: "Our Tone" was not always so proletarian in his dress; witness my wedding to Janet Baker, a very Sixties affair. "Our Tone" was the only guest to appear in traditional morning dress (photographic evidence available) and while the rugby heavies were lowering pints of black velvet, Banks informed my mother that he detested beer, liked the odd glass of champagne, but much preferred vintage port. He then proceeded to regale her with one of the highlights of his life, to wit pouring the best port in the House of Lords bar with the late Marquess of Salisbury. Today his old Yorkshires refer to him as the Vicar of Bray."

PHS

Ownership to the people

by Alan Tuffin

Next week's TUC faces a formidable task to start re-creating the kind of widespread support for extending public ownership which last existed in Britain 40 years ago. The problem is not just one of reversing Thatcherite privatization. It is that people have lost faith in old-style nationalization.

Traditional nationalized industries have not satisfied their employees. With management just as centralized and no industrial democracy, labour relations have hardly been better than in the private sector. Indeed, there has been more industrial unrest in the public sector than ever before. Consumers have often felt up against Big Brother bureaucracies serving the interests of arm chair pen-pushers rather than providing them with decent services.

A 1945-type popular consensus in favour of public ownership will be formed again only if the trade unions and the Labour Party adopt a new approach. Instead of demanding renationalization or fresh public ownership in a generalized, catch-all fashion, the labour movement needs to explain the merits of the case industry by industry, service by service. For example:

● The importance of public control over public utilities like gas and telecommunications, so that the public interest can be protected and every citizen granted equal access.

● Why public ownership is necessary in the extraction of non-renewable resources, both to protect the environment in a way that profit-conscious private operators never do, and to safeguard the long-term national interest.

● Why industries like armaments, or services like the financial institutions, which can have such a strategic impact on the national economy, should be subject to maximum public control.

Having re-argued the basic case, it is essential that public ownership is seen as a pluralistic idea. It is not just about nationalization, but about municipal ownership and co-operatives.

There is a growing awareness of the energy and resources which can be harnessed by local economic initiatives. Part of the success of ventures pioneered by many Labour-controlled councils is due to the fact that they allowed for democratic local control and direct worker participation. People felt committed to them. This has also been true of workers' co-operatives.

New-style public ownership therefore comes in a "package" allowing it to take a variety of forms, sometimes nationally organized, sometimes regionally or locally - and not always involving "full" public ownership. Public utilities would be obvious candidates for "full", national public ownership. In other cases, a "partial" stake, possibly in the form of a major shareholding, might be preferable.

Whatever option seems most suitable, it is essential that the public sees immediate benefits in terms of increased democratic control and better services. This, above all,

means much greater accountability. People must feel that they really are the "public" being served by public ownership.

The consumer must have direct means of access and redress. Local watchdogs should be established to represent community interests and take up individual grievances. They should have direct channels into the decision-making structures of public enterprises and guaranteed budgets ensuring they are independent. Local councillors should have the right to be consulted by public enterprises and MPs should have properly resourced select committees covering each sector of publicly owned industry - such as energy or communications.

Privatization and cuts in the public sector have meant worse services for the citizen and worse conditions for the workforce. Preventing the public sector from investing properly has allowed the country's economy and social infrastructure to deteriorate alarmingly. Imposing rigid accountability controls may have cut costs but has reduced levels of service - as anybody queuing in post offices or relying upon the first class mail knows only too well.

As these facts register there will be an increasing desire for a positive alternative. But if extending public ownership is to be part of that alternative, as it must, then public enterprises will have to be made the property of the real public, the worker, the consumer and the whole country - not the property of bureaucratic self-interest.

The author is General Secretary of the Union of Communication Workers.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

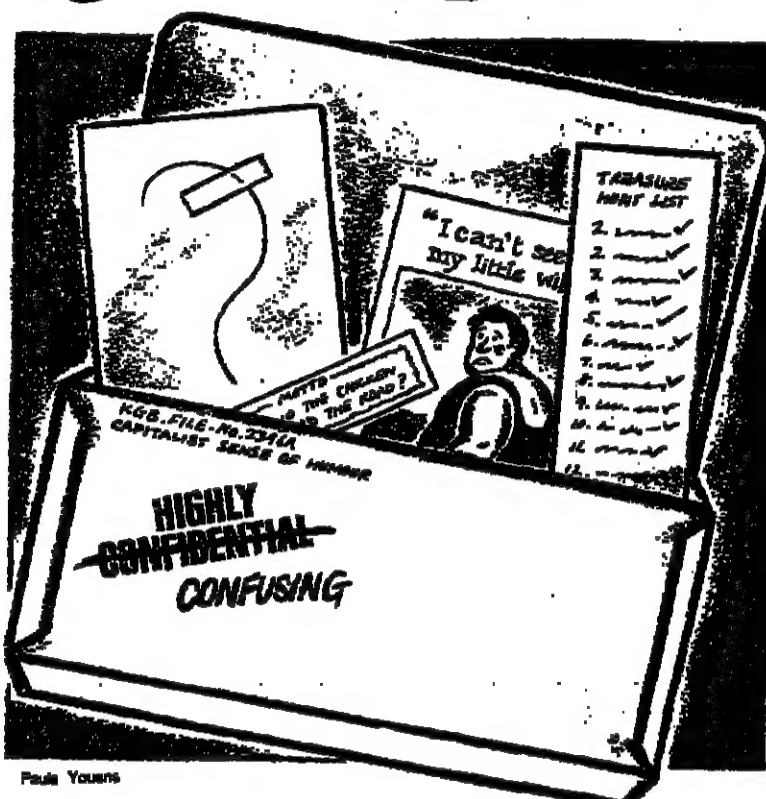
Midnight coup in Tehran

Those dear old-fashioned things, the gossip columns, have recently been getting excited about a treasure hunt which is to take place among the *Leviathan* chronicle. No doubt if it is successful their next adventure in nostalgia will be a trip on the maiden voyage of a new transatlantic liner called the *Titanic*. But I was reminded, by all the breathlessness, of a tale about a treasure hunt that I heard many years ago, and which I think is worth preserving in print, though strictly speaking I suppose it should be in aspic.

The hero was the late Geoffrey Keating, around whom amazing stories constantly formed, apparently out of nothing, like galaxies after the Big Bang. He had some kind of path-smoothing post in BP which involved knowing everybody - a post for which he was perfectly fitted, as he knew everybody already - and giving them lunch from time to time. Once he was at the Savoy Grill, his guests being King Hussein and Margot Fonteyn, and as they were being ushered to their table, they passed a group already seated consisting of Geoffrey's opposite number in Shell, giving lunch to Prince Rainier and Princess Grace. As Geoffrey passed the table, he paused for a moment to murmur in his rival's ear "I'll raise you".

Geoffrey was the greatest fixer I have ever known. If you wanted a hotel room or flight reservation when there was none to be had, and both the President of the United States and the Pope had tried to help and failed, a telephone call to Geoffrey would bring what was wanted in a quarter of an hour; if you were one of his friends he could find the unfindable, open locked doors, arrange introductions, spring you from jail, have you met in Pago Pago by the British ambassador (accompanied by the band of the National Guard), beat down art dealers and have by-passes re-routed if they were going to spoil your view. And unlike all other fixers, he never wanted anything for himself, not even the credit: all he asked was that when another of his friends needed something that you could help provide, you should, mindful of the help you had received, do whatever you could in return. He died some years ago, and I, like all his friends, miss him still.

One night after dinner he told me the treasure hunt story. He had been in Tehran, where his oil business naturally took him often, and somebody in diplomatic or social circles (this was in the days of the Shah, of course) thought it would be rather lark to get up an old-fashioned treasure hunt. The organizers listed 12 objects that the hunters had to get within a single day, reckoned from midnight to midnight: the winner would be the first to come back to base with the entire dozen, or - if no one managed to find all of them - who got the



Paula Young

largest number by the deadline. The prize was a case of champagne; all the players could easily afford such delights, but the organizers felt it would psychologically sharpen the competitiveness among the anyway exceptionally competitive bunch who were playing.

The objects were not acquired and hidden by the committee; they were all things that every hunter with sufficient ingenuity, not to say *chutzpah*, could find. Geoffrey told me the list, but I have remembered only two: one of these, which was the hinge on which the tale turned, was "Any document signed by any member of the staff of the Soviet embassy". The other was "A hair from the head of the head of any diplomatic mission".

The hair, which might be thought by you and me to provide some difficulty, was nothing to Geoffrey; he sailed off to see the British ambassador (who was, of course, a close friend of his) and demanded a hair from his head. The Ambassador's first thought was to pick up the poker and call the police, but Geoffrey explained, and His Excellency said he would be delighted to help. Geoffrey said his hair had been thinning for some time. He begged to be excused plucking a fresh one from his crown, led the way to his bedroom, and there took a hair from his hairbrush. He signed a note guaranteeing its authenticity (this was one of the stipulations of the competition), and another object *trouvée* was in Geoffrey's bag.

Back and forth across Tehran he

sped as the day climbed to its zenith and then decayed towards evening: the back seat of his car began to look impressive with the finds, and the list of hunted objects bore more and more ticks. Finally, Geoffrey had bagged 11 of the 12: the only one remaining - which he had deliberately left till last, deducing that it would be the most difficult - was the Russian signature.

It was now getting towards midnight and deadline; Geoffrey was in a dilemma. He could gamble on the chance that nobody would have got all 12, go back at once with his 11 and hope to win on a tie-break by returning earlier than other players who had managed to get all but one; or he could try for the impossible at the Soviet embassy and be virtually sure to win if he got back before the chimes of midnight with the precious document. Any reader of these words who knew Geoffrey knows also which choice he took.

He arrived at the Soviet embassy, which was dark and shuttered. He rang the bell, expecting that Siberian wolves would instantly burst from concealed traps in the pavement and devour him: they did not, but nothing else happened either. He plied the bell again and again and again: a long pause and he heard a crack, on a chain, and an eye peered out at him. Until that moment, Geoffrey had still conceived no plan at all (he did not speak Russian) for getting what he wanted: when he saw the eye peering suspiciously at him

he instinctively put his hand in his pocket, with no conscious intent and for pieces of paper. It was the list of items he had had to collect, now no longer needed; he took it out and thrust it through the gap. The eye took it, nodded and made to shut the door; Geoffrey shook his head violently and mimed writing. The eye nodded and shut the door; Geoffrey heard the shuffling step disappear.

Geoffrey waited; he waited long. Eventually, however, the eye was heard approaching, the door was opened again a few inches, and the eye's hand thrust out a piece of paper. Geoffrey took it; it was clearly an official Soviet embassy stationery, and subsequently proved to contain words to the effect of "Received, one document", with the date and time and a precious signature, no doubt obtained from a sleepy Third Secretary.

Geoffrey got back just in time, and had correctly surmised that nobody else in the game had got all 12 objects; being Geoffrey, he naturally opened all 12 bottles instantly, so that his midnight victory could be celebrated by all the losers.

He told me the story, as he told all his stories, with wit and drama; but he added a footnote, an item which, he said, had intrigued him at the time and intrigued him still. When day broke upon the Soviet Embassy in Tehran, somebody in the mission was in possession of a list of apparently unrelated and indeed meaningless objects. Soviet diplomatic statesmen, not to mention their sense of humour, somebody must have been given the job of working out the meaning of Geoffrey's midnight visit and of the mysterious document. There could be no explanation other than the visitor was a Soviet sympathizer who was providing top-secret information, possibly the disposition of the Nato forces, news of a forthcoming pre-emptive strike on Soviet nuclear installations, or even the formula for a new, more powerful, American secret weapon.

Geoffrey envisaged an office in the KGB, staffed by the service's leading cryptanalysts, working year after year to crack the fiendish code, and regularly being taken away and shot for failing to do so, to be replaced with further code-breakers who would in turn suffer the same fate. It was a long time ago, and the carnage among KGB cipher-crackers must by now have accounted for a substantial proportion of Smersh's personnel. I cannot be expected to grieve for them, but I think it is time to let bygones be bygones, which is why I have told the story today, to enable the now yellowing scraps of paper to be interred in peace in a file marked "Capitalist sense of humour". *Izvestia*, please copy.

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One small statistic at Notting Hill

The carnival is deafening. The narrow streets south of the Westway are lined with competing "sound systems" - anything up to 20 large speakers all trying to obliterate the noise next door, and if possible to shake loose the paving stones. When I set off on Monday evening with a friend, a girl of 23, to find something to eat, we did not mean to stay long because of the overwhelming noise and I wanted to get back to my flat to finish an article on multi-racial education.

But the carnival spirit is infectious, and we were soon swept away. There was Malaysian food to sample: West Indian goat curry; a band on a street corner made up of six drummers, a bassist, a singer and a sax player all huddled around a microphone - pure *On the Road* stuff that would have delighted Jack Kerouac - and it was in a state of exhilaration that we turned into a street more crowded and darkened than the one before.

About 20 policemen were grouped at the junction, but this was no exceptional sight. The police were conspicuous without being obtrusive throughout the carnival area. It was not until we were enveloped in the swirling crowd that I saw a sign proclaiming The Mangrove Restaurants and realized we were on Old St. Pauls Road, notorious as a thoroughly dangerous place to walk.

But by that time it would have been difficult to turn round as to press on. Anyway, I was sensibly dressed in scruffy clothes, with my slender wallet secreted in a pocket from which even I have difficulty extracting it. Nor were we conscious of any hostility, even if we were the only whites in sight.

The people were jammed together as tightly as a rush-hour crowd in the Underground, yet they were still trying to dance. The only way through was to join the sort of conga lines that pushed through the crowd, and firmly grip your companion's hand.

We were making quite good progress when I felt my jacket pulled by a hand in an outside pocket. I tugged it away and turned to look at the thief: a stocky youth with a broad, clean-shaven face, short Afro hair and skin, in that unearthly light, the colour of a freshly peeled conker. There was another, harder pull ahead and to my right as a space opened miraculously among the dancers, and my companion tried to pull me clear. I stumbled round in a half-circle, astonished by the punches landing on my back and shoulders, then I was tripped and in the gutter. One of the thieves bent over and tugged at my jacket. I was still angry enough to determine that if I couldn't avoid a beating, I would at least hold on to my money.

Then I saw my companion on the ground. She had no purse and no money on her, but she had still been knocked down and was lying on her back being kicked about the face by a black youth shouting "White honkie". I crawled over to try to protect her.

By now the kicking had come to seem part of the dance - all noise and buffeting and white trousers legs swinging rhythmically backwards and forwards. But when I reached her I realized that I was the major target and that she was getting needlessly hurt by the boot boys who were aiming at me.

Then she suddenly receded through a swaying thicket of legs. I thought at the time she had been dragged away. I realize now that I was being pulled away from the advancing police so that the kicking could continue, which it did for an unguessable space of time, perhaps two minutes, while I tried to protect my face, keep moving, and yell "help" as loudly as I could. At last a policeman pulled me to my feet.

"Get on that pavement", he said "and run like hell till you reach the end of the street. They'll look after you there."

I couldn't run, but I did get out, unharmed, along the pavement. There was no sign of my com-

panion. At the police station they were friendly, efficient and courteous, but they had no idea where she was either. They took down my story: "Attempted robbery, booty, one packet of cigarettes". But they explained that even to attempt to arrest the thugs would provoke a full-scale riot. They pinned their faith in the video cameras which were filming the street with the help of light-intensifying devices. These had alerted the police to our beating.

Once the films are examined there is some hope of identifying the thugs who started it - and imprisonment even in Britain does not seem too harsh a punishment for the men who kicked my companion's face simply because of the colour of her skin.

Two hours later I heard what had happened to her. She managed to get to her feet and stumbled away until she bumped into two friends. Her nose was bleeding, but unbroken. Her cheek is puffy and her jaw is sore. Her body, apart from one bad bruise, is intact. I can now feel ten separate boot-marks, five on or around my head - but if our attackers had been using the heavier boots once favoured by white skinheads, I would have a fractured skull, not just a sick headache.

Andrew Brown

Peter Kellner

In defence of Brittan

Stuart Young, the chairman of the BBC, said at the height of the *Real Lives* controversy that the issues it raised should be discussed in a "calmer atmosphere than was then possible". Four weeks have now elapsed, although with the way the BBC's darker corners continue to be illuminated, it is not clear how much calmer the atmosphere has become.

Still, during the past few days I have watched the film - along with hundreds of other people - at Haringey's civic centre; and I have studied the transcript - along with thousands of other people - published in the August 16 issue of *Broadcast* magazine.

One man who engages with rather greater credit than he was given at the time is Leon Brittan. I am not normally one to enthuse about the things Tory ministers do, but on this occasion his actions seem to me to have been entirely proper.

This is not to say that I agree with Mr Brittan that the film should be banned. Like most others who have seen it, I find that it provides a persuasive indictment of both extremes in Northern Ireland - all the more persuasive because it comes from the mouths of the participants themselves, rather than from London-based reporters. It should be shown.

But as far as the actions of the Home Secretary are concerned, that is not the point. He believed that the BBC should not show an extensive interview with a leading member of the IRA and acted on that belief by writing publicly to the BBC.

One explanation of Mr Brittan's actions has been that he cynically threw his weight around, doing the Prime Minister's bidding; he expected the chairman of the BBC - a Tory appointee and the brother of a cabinet minister - to be a soft touch. This criticism evades the real, continuing issue, which also concerns the M15 vetting row and last weekend's allegation of the *Observer* that M15 secretly briefs BBC executives about trade union "threats". Let us assume that ministers really do wish to protect the national interest, and they perceive a risk that the BBC might act against that interest. What should they do?

The view of Gerald Kaufman, expressed at the height of the *Real Lives* row, seems to be that they should do nothing. When Labour is in power, Mr Kaufman would presumably visit the BBC's Westminster studios to tell Sir Robin Day: "It's not for me to comment on what the BBC chooses to broadcast. I may be the minister responsible for broadcasting, but I am not going to do anything even if the BBC does act against the national interest."

I cannot believe that Mr Kaufman is capable of such indifference. He has become one of Labour's most effective front-bench spokesmen by attacking injustice and bureaucratic inhumanity. The idea that he would refrain as Home Secretary from criticising defects in the BBC is absurd.

It is an ineluctable fact of political life that, however bad or narrow-minded government decisions may be, the ministers who take them generally convince themselves that

they are acting in the national interest. I have yet to meet a minister who, on a matter of major public concern, will admit to any difference between the interests of the government and those of the country.

In these circumstances we must choose between two alternative models of the "national interest". In one model consensus is everything: anyone rejecting that consensus is acting, by definition, outside the national interest and must be quashed. The duty of BBC executives is to ensure that a version of the national interest agreed with ministers prevails.

The outcome is inevitable. If it follows this model, the BBC will find itself accepting the definition laid down by the government, whether the subject under discussion is Ulster, industrial relations or the Prime Minister's eyesight.

The alternative model has a less predictable outcome. It is based on the premise that there is no single definition or arbiter of the "national interest" - and that any attempt to seek one definition or to nominate one arbiter is fundamentally undemocratic.

According to this view, the government's job is to govern as effectively as it can, and the media's job to monitor it as fully as possible. It is not merely inevitable but desirable that those roles conflict: otherwise one of our most important checks on bad government would disappear.

Those who criticize Mr Brittan for publicizing his views about the *Real Lives* film are, implicitly, trying to wish away the conflict. The suggestion that he should have written a private letter or made a quiet telephone call to Stuart Young, and so avoid the public pressure that preceded the governors' meeting, is especially pernicious.

In the case of the latest *Observer* story it is the allegation of envelopes marked "secret" more than their dubious contents that creates the scandal. Few things corrode democracy faster than private deals among the great and the good, quietly trading away our right to judge for ourselves what is happening.

Mr Brittan's actions over *Real Lives* are acceptable not because he has the right to dictate what is in the national interest, but because he has no such right. Far from being expected to behave impartially, he should be accepted for what he is: a party politician properly taking part in an open, continuing and healthy conflict between the government and the public.

Those of us who wish the film to be screened should not waste our fire on the Home Secretary. He has only been doing his job. It is the governors who have failed to do theirs. Like all self-respecting communists they should wear government pressure as a badge of honour, commemorating one of democracy's rituals: the sacred right of ministers to tell the media, "say this" or "don't say that" - and the equally sacred duty of the media to reply: "get lost".

The author is Political Editor of the *New Statesman*.

moreover... Miles Kington

Signs that signify nothing

"There is nothing new about Beatlemania," my piano teacher told me years ago. "List was attracting huge adoring crowds this time last century, all showing the same symptoms as today's fainting fans. Women followed him all over Europe, collecting his cold coffee, drugs and dead cats."

If these disgusting bits of classical leftovers had been preserved, they would no doubt have been on sale this week, which seems to be the season for auctions of rock 'n' roll memorabilia. Mark you, it would have been difficult for anyone to certify the coffee cups and cigar ends as genuine. I have been looking through the catalogue for today's Phillips' sale of ephemera and memorabilia and it seems that unless something is personally signed by a celebrity, it is hardly worth selling. And putting your autograph on a deceased cigar is hard work.

List's troubles (apart from the fact that he was a gimpick, and meretricious composer, but let's not go into that) was that he did not have an adequate marketing division. In the rock 'n' roll section of the Phillips' sale most of the objects are from the Beatles production line: 340-piece jigsaw puzzles, tea-cloths, trays, woven stockings with Beatles' faces on, plastic Paul McCartney dolls, pottery mugs adorned by Beatles' mugs and what is described as "one of only eight Beatles dresses worn by 'usherettes' for royal premiere of *Help* 1965". It has been signed by all the group, in fact twice by Ringo Starr, and is expected to fetch £1,000. It is ludicrous. I cannot imagine anyone wanting to wear it.

But of course these things are not for wearing or doing the washing up with or drinking out of. The Paul McCartney doll is not for taking to bed. They are all for buying and selling.

There is an instructive difference between the rock 'n' roll section and an earlier collection of antique records for sale. The jazz collectors are supposed to buy records - that is, the music itself in the rock 'n' roll section there is no music at all, only the stage props to go with it.

I am baffled by what people are prepared to buy and sell. For instance does your heart leap at the sound of lot 1157 This is a statue produced by the Belgian trade union

movement to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 40-hour week. Or what about lot 136, a stuffed female snowy owl: lot 138, a model of a Golden Shred goliwig with bulb and electric plug; or even lot 177, a series of 13 posters by Norman Wilkinson on the theme "Famous public schools on the M1", including Harrow, Rugby, Stove et al.

Well, I confess that these things could possibly be used. The goliwig could light up a dark corner. A dead owl might start a conversation after the debate prompted by the Belgian statue had petered out. But I defy anyone to find a use or a possible justification for lot 211, a £5 note bearing the signatures of Poch and Hair, dated 1918 and expected to fetch £25; lot 241, two postcards of Picasso's paintings, both signed by the artist; lot 295, a 1933 calendar signed by Queen Mary; lot 377, signature of Marlene Dietrich on a 50 zloty note, circa 1945. And most baffling of all, lot 478, a postcard signed by John Lennon and Yoko Ono dated 1918 and expected to reach £80.

It's not worth trying to read any significance into why First World War generals sign £5 notes whereas the Beatles prefer pictures of Sydney Harbour. It's simply that when the applicant says to the celebrity "May I have your autograph?" he offers as a writing surface the first thing to come out of his pocket. Some people have fivers, some have postcards. But what they all share is a touching belief that one day they will be able to send these things to auction and get a good price for them.

The extraordinary thing is that they seem to be right. And I cannot understand why. The signature of a famous person is the most impersonal thing he can offer. Writing your name involves less thought, less giving of yourself than writing anything else because it is entirely automatic. No celebrity ever remembers writing his name for anyone. The only interesting thing about a signature is the attached message, because some thought and imagination may have gone into it. But a £5 note with two names scribbled on it...? The mind boggles.

(Copies of this article signed by the author are available from *Moreover Memorabilia*, £10 a hundred. Coffee and cigars used during composition of article come extra.)



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WHITEWASH VARNISH

Yesterday's brief statement by M Fabius the French Prime Minister seems unlikely to quell controversy over the sinking of the Greenpeace yacht Rainbow Warrior seven weeks ago - any more than did the report by the French civil servant M Bernard Tricot some 24 hours before. What it has done is to push the ball temporarily into the New Zealand court, from which it will surely return with full power.

Perhaps predictably the French line continues to refute any suggestion that the secret service was actively involved - in the absence of any convincing evidence to the contrary - but promises swift action against any citizens responsible should such evidence be forthcoming.

On the other hand M Fabius also admits that the report by M Tricot revealed shortcomings within the French secret service which needed investigation by the Ministry of Defence. This suggests that the Government, "cleared" of complicity by M Tricot, is anxiously trying to contain the damage by focusing attention on the service - though with what results remains to be seen.

Ironically the kindest thing that anyone has so far said about the Tricot report has been the comment by Mr David Lange, New Zealand's Prime Minister, in whose waters the vessel sank with the loss of one life. The report, he pointed out, could hardly be the "whitewash" job described by the French Press. It was simply too transparent for that.

M Tricot had after all confirmed that five French agents had been in New Zealand, monitoring and trying to infiltrate the Greenpeace movement. He even went so far as to admit that the truth might have been concealed from him during his investigation - a startling statement that has cast doubt over all of his conclusions. If they were spies, as he nearly admits, but not saboteurs, even the Prime Minister alone implies they were not very good ones.

The choice of M Tricot to hold the inquiry in the first place still seems rather odd. The argument that a former Gaullist aide could be trusted not to help shield a Socialist administration sounds very unconvincing. A similar principle might just work in a parallel situation in Britain, where defence in general and nuclear weapons policy in particular, are divisive issues. In France this is simply not the case. This is not to impugn M Tricot - a highly respected Civil

Servant of apparently unimpeachable integrity. It is rather to question the judgement of those responsible for handling the whole affair since the Rainbow Warrior went down with the loss of one life.

When asked to comment upon the theory that our own secret service had mined the vessel to embarrass the French, M Tricot replied "It is not impossible." Well, indeed so it is not. But the balance of probability is such that M Tricot would have been better advised to dismiss it. Albeit more perfunctory - but we're not as perfunctious as that.

That the French are embarrassed - and are likely to be more so - is beyond doubt. Mr Lange has described the sinking as being just short of an act of war and has said that President Mitterrand should consider recalling his ambassador from Wellington. French relations with New Zealand have been badly stretched, with implications for French interests in the South Pacific.

How far it will affect French relations with the rest of the world remains to be seen. Developing countries have in the past shown a tolerance of French pragmatism which has often been the envy of Whitehall. Nor is it clear, despite M Fabius's statement, how the affair might impinge upon the Mitterrand Government. There has been speculation about the future of M Charles Hernu the Defence Minister - although he seems more likely to be accused of failing to control extremist elements within the French secret service, than with complicity. Will the doctrine of ministerial responsibility force his resignation?

There is also the question of how far the affair might impinge upon the future of French nuclear weapons policy. This has so far been carried through on the basis of a quite astonishing public consensus. But will this continue to be the case as nuclear protest groups around the world round upon France?

M Fabius's attempt to varnish the whitewash, after which he refused to answer questions, must have helped by repeating French condemnation of the sinking and by underlining the Government's anxiety to maintain good relations with New Zealand. But the Government has a long way to go yet and it will have to show much better judgement than it has so far if it is to emerge only temporarily scarred.

NINTH TRY IN NIGERIA

A palace coup, not a mutiny, seems to have removed the leaders of Nigeria's military regime. It has long been expected, and feared, that mutinies by junior officers might destroy the apparent stability established by the Buhari regime, perhaps producing chaos in an army numbering over 100,000 spread all over this vast country. But if instead we are seeing an orderly transfer of power to a new group of senior officers, the change could even be beneficial.

The brigadier who announced the take over is stationed at army headquarters, as chief staff officer for the armoured corps. By what is now a tradition, an officer who announced such changes in Nigeria is not himself installed as head of state.

Significantly, now Brigadier Dagon-Yaro's superior, the army chief of staff, General Babangida, replaces General Buhari. It has been clear that officers at army headquarters, excluded from the responsibility of running the government, may have resented the pretension of Supreme Headquarters, which is not in direct charge of the armed forces, but has been the political powerhouse. The chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, General Idiagbon, now on pilgrimage, was generally described as the regime's "strong man", and concerned himself with all - perhaps too many - aspects of government.

General Babangida comes from that "middle belt" of Nigeria which lies between the great nations of the south, the Yoruba and Hausa Ibo, and the Hausa Fulani Kanuri grouping on the far north, whose rivalry is still a factor in Nigeria's affairs. The Buhari regime was not "northern-dominated", as its critics charge. But no such charge, it is to be hoped, will be made against the new regime, even if the Brigadier, a Christian from Plateau State, has Kanuri connections.

Inevitably the Buhari regime gradually shed the support of civilian groups which had, in Nigerian fashion, welcomed it extravagantly, the students, trade unionists, journalists, supporters of the opposition to Shehu Shagari. In recent months it had become increasingly authoritarian. It had, for example, banned public discussion not only of a possible timetable for a return to civilian rule, but even of the form the civilian government might take. Although a number of detained politicians were released this month, six senior journalists detained by the regime itself are still held; and the editor, together with the elder statesman Sule Katagum, were arrested because of an interview with Alhaji Sule, which appeared in the Government's own newspaper, *New Nigerian*.

Politically one expects the new regime to conciliate civilians by restoring the freedom of discussion which Nigerians prize and by holding out a hope of eventual return to civilian rule. Whether, without help from the IMF, which its predecessor rejected, it can afford to relax the austerity which the Buhari regime imposed in an effort to control government spending and meet external debts, is less clear. Almost half external spending goes to debt services, in spite of the postponement of capital repayments negotiated with creditors. The result has been not only a famine of legally imported consumer goods, but heavy redundancies because of shortages of industrial raw materials and spares. Although food production has risen significantly, food prices have risen faster. Social discipline is weakening.

Euphoria spreads speedily in Nigeria but soon evaporates. The new rulers are the ninth group to wrestle with her problems since independence. Time is not on their side.

Matter of life and death in Holborn

From the Editor of *The Mirror* and others
Sir, It is a truism in Fleet Street that an editor's first duty is to make sure that he is not the last editor of his paper. Equally, it is the manager's duty to run newspapers efficiently to safeguard their future. This is the central issue in the dispute which has closed down *The Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror*, *Sunday People* and *The Sporting Life*.

Since we are unable to do so in our own newspapers, we express our support for our publisher and management in the dispute between Mirror Group Newspapers and the National Graphical Association?

Often the attitude of editors over such conflicts is "a plague on both your houses". Journalists abhor stoppages. They want to get their papers out, and are willing to work to that end, even on Christmas Day. But in this conflict, we unequivocally support Mr Robert Maxwell and his managers. There could be the gravest consequences, not just for our newspapers and for those who work on them, but for the whole Labour movement.

How could the issue be simpler? *The Sporting Life* is an excellent newspaper, a national institution, but it loses £3 million a year. Nearly 250 production staff are employed, many earning, with benefits, over £500 for a 32-hour week.

Some months ago the typesetting and composition of the paper was transferred to so-called new technology. (It has, in fact, been successfully used for years in the provinces.)

No newspaper can survive indefinitely if deadlines and editions are missed and if printing standards decline below the quality required. Regrettably, this is what has happened since new technology was introduced on *The Sporting Life*. Even with first-rate production, the paper would still lose a fortune at our plant. Clearly *The Sporting Life* either has to close down, or be transferred to a printing plant more suitable for an average sale of 80,239.

What our company is trying to do is to save *The Sporting Life*, because manifestly it cannot continue as it is, and bring some sanity and order into our neck of Fleet Street.

How ironic it is through the reckless behaviour of some NGA members, the voices of Labour's friendliest papers were silenced, possibly until after the general election. Anyone who thinks that could not happen does not know Fleet Street. We earnestly hope all sensible trade unionists will combine to end such a dire possibility and get everyone back to work. Yours faithfully, MIKE MOLLOY, Editor, *The Mirror*, RICHARD STOTT, Editor, *Sunday Mirror*, PETER THOMPSON, Editor, *Sunday Mirror*, GRAHAM TAYLOR, Editor, *The Sporting Life*, Mirror Group Newspapers, Holborn Circus, ECL, August 27.

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M Fabius's attempt to varnish the whitewash, after which he refused to answer questions, must have helped by repeating French condemnation of the sinking and by underlining the Government's anxiety to maintain good relations with New Zealand. But the Government has a long way to go yet and it will have to show much better judgement than it has so far if it is to emerge only temporarily scarred.

Ecology v jobs

From Mr O. Walston
Sir, Jonathan Porritt (feature, August 15) claims that "low-input farming means more jobs than the capital-intensive earth mining that posesses as agriculture today". In common with many farmers today, I share some of Mr Porritt's worries, but I only wish that he and his colleagues in Friends of the Earth would take as much trouble to understand modern agriculture as they do to understand the nesting habits of Greenland white-fronted geese.

Mr Porritt wants to return to what he calls "self-sustaining" agriculture which existed half a century ago. Those were the days when farms were small, when fertility came from manure and legumes rather than ammonium nitrate and rock phosphate. Farming did, it is true, provide more jobs in those days. But wages were bad and living conditions unpleasant.

If one day taxation, low prices or even Friends of the Earth stopped me from using high inputs on my farm, I would not reintroduce livestock and grow clover. The reason is because I could not afford to. In addition to a grain mountain, the EEC also has surpluses of butter, milk and meat.

Instead I would do what my grain-producing friends in North America are doing. They use far less fertilizer and chemicals than I do, and their yields are less than a third of mine. But they also use far less labour.

In Kansas and Saskatchewan a father and son can comfortably look after 3,000 acres. In Cambridgeshire today, on a farm of the same size, I need 14 people to make my intensive system work. Yours faithfully, OLIVER WALSTON, Thrilby Farms Ltd, Thrilby, Royston, Hertfordshire, August 19.

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Significantly, now Brigadier Dagon-Yaro's superior, the army chief of staff, General Babangida, replaces General Buhari. It has been clear that officers at army headquarters, excluded from the responsibility of running the government, may have resented the pretension of Supreme Headquarters, which is not in direct charge of the armed forces, but has been the political powerhouse. The chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, General Idiagbon, now on pilgrimage, was generally described as the regime's "strong man", and concerned himself with all - perhaps too many - aspects of government.

The dangers of moral absolutism

From Mr Nicolas Walter
Sir, Paul Johnson's article (August 22) vindicating "moral absolutism" against "moral relativism", which follows his view in the *Spectator* (June 15), is vitiated by two fallacies, one theoretical and one practical.

In theory, mass murder is surely more likely to result from moral relativism than from moral absolutism, because absolutists know that they are superior and right and that their victims are inferior and alien, whereas relativists are not so sure about such things.

Certainty is more liable than doubt to lead to error, and the dogmatic belief in laws which are universal, permanent, objective and divine is one of the most dangerous states of mind.

In practice, mass murder has generally been committed in the name of moral absolutes, whether the moral absolutes of nation, race, class or party in recent times, or the religious ones of god, creed, church or sect of previous times.

The increase in mass murder during the past century is a result not of ideology but of technology, and no serious student of history can forget the long criminal record of faith.

In particular, it is surely strange to appeal to the moral absolutism of the Western Judeo-Christian tradition, which - along with its Muslim derivative - has caused at least as much suffering as any other system during the past two thousand years.

The Communist purges resemble the Catholic and Protestant inquisitions and witch-hunts, the Nazi holocaust resembles the Christian crusade or Muslim jihad, the post-imperialist atrocities resemble the imperialist atrocities, and so on.

After all, the current mass murders in the Middle East or India or Northern Ireland are being committed between groups identified by religious rather than any other labels.

It is really no different whether one is killed for the sake of the Church or the State. And the important fact is that neither Church nor State is a safe guide to morality, absolute or relative, and that both Church and State do more harm than good when they attempt to interfere in such matters. Yours, etc, NICOLAS WALTER, Rationalist Press Association, 88 Ilington High Street, NI.

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M15 and the BBC

From the President of the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding
Sir, On your front page on August 19 you quoted Mr Alastair Hetherington's comments on the case of Isobel Hilton, who was banned from a post in the BBC on the mistaken grounds that she had been secretary of a "pro-Maoist organisation", identified later in your report as the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding.

I have been a member of the society since its foundation. Through all the political changes in China the society has sought consistently to deepen understanding without carrying out propaganda. It includes members of varying experience and persuasion

and it has no British political affiliations. In addition to providing information about China and stimulating discussion it has organised visits to China by a growing number of people, including many distinguished public figures who, not surprisingly, want to see China, a changing China, for themselves.

At a time when relations at all levels between Britain and China have never been better, membership of the society should surely be encouraged, not blacklisted. Yours faithfully, BRIGGS, President, Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding, 152 Camden High Street, NW1, August 22.

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Politically one expects the new regime to conciliate civilians by restoring the freedom of discussion which Nigerians prize and by holding out a hope of eventual return to civilian rule. Whether, without help from the IMF, which its predecessor rejected, it can afford to relax the austerity which the Buhari regime imposed in an effort to control government spending and meet external debts, is less clear. Almost half external spending goes to debt services, in spite of the postponement of capital repayments negotiated with creditors. The result has been not only a famine of legally imported consumer goods, but heavy redundancies because of shortages of industrial raw materials and spares. Although food production has risen significantly, food prices have risen faster. Social discipline is weakening.

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Pressure on prisons

From Mr John Ormiston
Sir, The Chairman of the Board of Visitors of HM Prison Holloway (August 12) might well be alarmed at the lack of staff and overcrowding of our prisons. This could well be alleviated by the greater use of bail hostels which are for unconvicted persons who, because they have no fixed abode, are remanded to prison to suffer the stigma thereof, whereas, if they agreed to the simple rules, they could be remanded to one of the too few bail hostels that exist up and down the country.

These bail hostels are either voluntarily managed or managed by the probation service but in either case they offer a pleasant haven pending trial and records show that not only is the cost per head cheaper than keeping people in prison but not having rubbed shoulders with the guilty makes them better able to face the world, whether they be found guilty or acquitted.

Naturally, there are many who have to be retained in custody during their period of bail and there are many factors to determine whether or not those detained might well be bailed to a hostel. This hostel is invariably full, as are many others that hold men, but Kelley House, which is one of the few bail hostels that handle women only, is very rarely full although it covers a big area.

Hopefully the Home Office should consider urgently the provision of more bail hostels for men, or enlarging those already existing, and if the probation service finds difficulty in managing them, there must be many organizations such as St Mungo's who would take on this satisfying task.

Yours faithfully, JOHN ORMISTON, St Mungo Bail Hostel, 9 Colonge Road, SW11, August 16.

There is also the question of how far the affair might impinge upon the future of French nuclear weapons policy. This has so far been carried through on the basis of a quite astonishing public consensus. But will this continue to be the case as nuclear protest groups around the world round upon France?

M Fabius's attempt to varnish the whitewash, after which he refused to answer questions, must have helped by repeating French condemnation of the sinking and by underlining the Government's anxiety to maintain good relations with New Zealand. But the Government has a long way to go yet and it will have to show much better judgement than it has so far if it is to emerge only temporarily scarred.

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Welcome tribute to the designer

From Mr James Pilditch
Sir, With so much angry news these days, how pleasing it was to read in your columns (August 22) that in Washington this week the British Government received an award for "services to design". Given by societies of professional designers from around the world, this honour is without precedent.

Anyone involved in design in Britain knows how tirelessly the minister concerned and his officials work, and will feel pleased for them. Beyond the compliment, however, are two encouraging messages for us all. First, here is evidence not only that the Government has identified something of competitive importance, but also that it is directing energy and resources at it with a competence that is internationally recognized. If the same focus on key factors is occurring in other fields, as it is, we have reason to be hopeful for the future.

Second, the Government's great endeavour is to remind industry that design matters. The best ideas are the design of British products they are more likely to buy them. That benefits us all.

Funny, though, that we have to learn from designers abroad about the good things happening here. Yours faithfully, JAMES PILDITCH, 62 Cadogan Square, SW1, August 22.

There is also the question of how far the affair might impinge upon the future of French nuclear weapons policy. This has so far been carried through on the basis of a quite astonishing public consensus. But will this continue to be the case as nuclear protest groups around the world round upon France?

M Fabius's attempt to varnish the whitewash, after which he refused to answer questions, must have helped by repeating French condemnation of the sinking and by underlining the Government's anxiety to maintain good relations with New Zealand. But the Government has a long way to go yet and it will have to show much better judgement than it has so far if it is to emerge only temporarily scarred.

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COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
August 27: The Prince and Princess of Wales today visited Wetherby and Wetherby Hospitals in Greater Manchester.

Their Royal Highnesses travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight. Lieutenant-Commander Peter Eberle, RN was in attendance.

Princess Anne, past Master of the Farmers' Company, will attend the annual dinner at the Royal Chace Hotel, Enfield on October 25. Princess Anne will speak at the Women of the Year Luncheon at the Savoy Hotel on October 28 and in the evening attend a performance by the Dominion Theatre.

Princess Anne, Patron of the National Union of Townswomen's Guilds, will attend the North London Federation golden jubilee event at the Royal Chace Hotel, Enfield on October 29.

Princess Anne will visit the Whitehall-Scovill factory at Lydney, Gloucestershire, to celebrate its seventy-fifth anniversary, on October 30 and also the Remploy factory at Parkside, Lydney. Princess Anne, President of the British Knitwear and Clothing Export Council, will visit Chester Range at Crewe, Cheshire, on October 31. As Patron of the Home Farm Trust, she will visit the Lydiate, South Wirral, as patron of the Townswomen's Guilds, will attend the Wirral Federation luncheon at Wirral, Merseyside, on October 31. As President of the Missions to Seamen, will attend the Maritime dinner dance, organized by the London Council of the Missions to Seamen at the Baltic Exchange.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Major General Ralph Younger will be held at St James's Church, Piccadilly, at 11.30 am on Tuesday, September 17, 1985.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. C. E. Faragher and Miss S. J. Williams

The engagement is announced between Peter Christopher Edward, elder son of Mr Edward Faragher, of Twickenham, and Mrs Peter Theobald, of Little Farthington, Leicestershire, and Susan Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Williams, of Fairford House, Iwerdore, Wiltshire.

Mr N. J. A. Hamilton and Miss J. F. Willes

The engagement is announced between Nigel James Alexander, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. H. Hamilton, of 6 Braemar Park, Bangor, Co. Down, and Joy Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. A. Willes, of 28 Aldwick Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Mr M. Hughes and Miss F. C. Gray

The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Mrs M. E. Hughes, of Llangelli, Anglesey, and Fiona Campbell, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs R. G. Gray, of Dulwich, London.

Dr J. B. Schofield and Dr H. M. Steel

The engagement is announced between John Bellhouse, only son of Mr and Mrs P. F. Schofield, of Longridge, Gee Cross, Cheshire, and Helen Mary, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. G. Steel, of Bledlow Ridge, Buckinghamshire.

Dr R. J. Stevens and Dr C. M. Neal

The engagement is announced between Richard Jeffrey, second son of Dr and Mrs Marcus Stevens, of Cambridge, and Christine Mary, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Neal, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

Service dinner

SVV The Royal Irish Rangers
A dinner was held at Wetherby camp, near Thetford, yesterday for Lieutenant Colonel A. P. Trimble and officers of the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion, the Royal Irish Rangers, to bid farewell to Major General Ken Brechin who has retired as colonel of the regiment. The honorary colonel of the 5th Battalion, Colonel R. G. Madocks, was also present.

Service ball

Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service
The annual ball of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service was held at the Hartingham Club on Saturday. The principal guest was Vice-Admiral Sir Anthony Tippet, Chief of Fleet Support, Captain C. G. Butterworth, RFA, Chief Marine Superintendent, presided.

Archaeology Northern royal strongholds found

Written references to identifiable places provide a powerful tool for locating the royal strongholds of the sixth to eighth centuries AD in northern Britain.

Contemporary documents enable us to identify a dozen fortifications among the Angles, Britons, Picts and Scots.

A 12-year research campaign has increased understanding of them. The forts occupied low but craggy knolls, promontories or sea cliffs. The ramparts were normally of un-mortared stone, reinforced with beams.

One important identification has been that of the Anglian monastery of Colchester, where the "burgh" element shows that the monastery had been founded within a pre-existing secular fortification. The site can now be located at Kirk Hill, near St Abb's Head, where a large circular ditch backed on to the sea cliffs.

The rampart of the monastery overlaid a wooden palisade, which must have protected the original "burgh". As a defensive technique, such palisades are British, but here radiocarbon dates argue that the work is Anglian.

The defended area is greater than that of the Northumbrian royal city of Bamburgh, but the location lacks the communications needed to control a kingdom.

Little is known about buildings inside the forts, except at Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness. This was the seat of a Pictish nobleman and his family, who were converted by St Columba. Ranges of timber buildings with cobbled floors and stone-flagged hearths backed on to the perimeter wall of the fort.

The inhabitants drank wine, imported from the east Mediterranean in pottery jars and from Bordeaux in wooden casks. It was doubtless paid for by exports including luxuries such as white furs and fresh-water pearls, as well as hides, pelts and slaves.

The archaeological evidence also demonstrates the presence of craftsmen, working under royal or noble patronage, to make brooches, pins and pendants of silver and bronze, some with glass or enamel inlays, iron weapons, knives and tools decorated with silver, and ornate leather shoes and belts embellished with metal.

There is also some evidence for the basic farming economy which underpinned warrior kings, fort-builders and skilled craftsmen. Durnum has yielded well-preserved bones from domestic animals. Two-thirds of these represent cattle, less than one-tenth sheep, and the remainder are pig. It can be seen that beef was a big element in Pictish diet, at least at a royal table.

We must also remember that cattle had a status role in Celtic society, and that in life they have provided dairy products and draught animals, while in death their hides would have been valuable for both local consumption and export.

As for cereals, most sites produce handmills for grinding barley and oats, but only Durnum has yielded the actual grains.

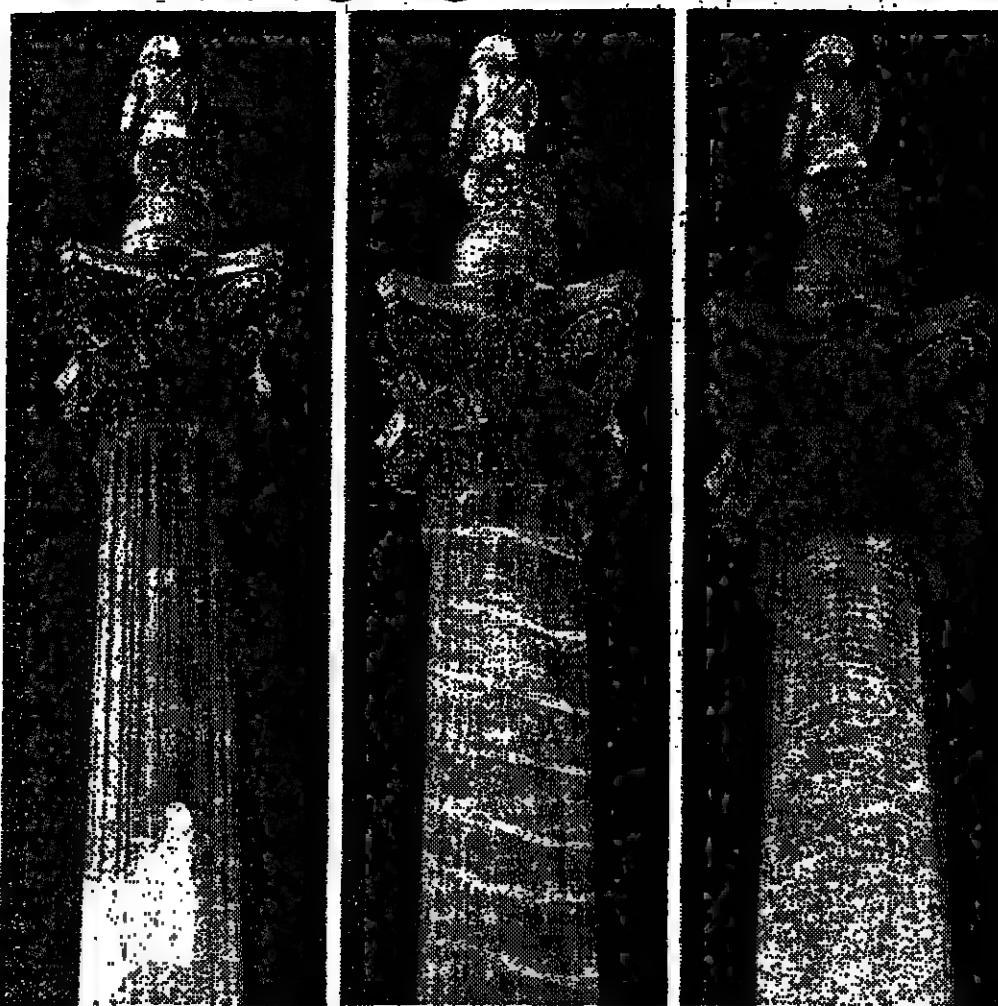
If documentary sources have been essential in the recognition of these strongholds, their support is no less necessary in our attempts to understand them. For a start, it is the documents which indicate the role of kings as builders of forts, as well as besiegers, burners and destroyers. Some of these royal military activities were personal feuds or dynastic struggles, but others were the expression of political conflicts between the four kingdoms struggling for dominance in northern Britain.

Warfare was only one of the functions of royal strongholds. Bede calls both Dumbarton and Bamburgh civilised centres, the latter specifically a royal town. Durnum was likewise a royal town, which provided a suitable prison for the turbulent Bishop Wilfrid. His jail had the mark of a fortress, which we may translate as earl or thane.

We may perceive a hierarchy of royal centres when we read of King Egfrith of Northumbria and his Queen going the rounds of cities, fortified towns and rural estates, with worldly display and joyful feasting. The daily feasting reveals the king's court and warband consuming the taxes in kind which were brought to these centres twice or three a year.

Leslie Alcock
Professor of Archaeology,
Glasgow University

Making light of Nelson



Nelson's Column sporting a "Napoleonic" hand, barbed wire and brickwork. Below: Mr Wodiczko with his projection equipment (Photograph: John Voss)

Three London monuments are being adorned with projected night-time images by Krzysztof Wodiczko, in an event organized by the Institute of Contemporary Arts.

According to the ICA, the City Projections "set out to illuminate the hidden implications of the public architecture and to question social and political myths at the very sites where they are celebrated".

Mr Wodiczko, born in Poland in 1943, now lives in New York. In recent years he has flashed his ironic images on to buildings and monuments in the United States, Canada, Australia and Germany.

Nelson's Column is getting the Wodiczko treatment to-night and Saturday night, from 9pm. Tomorrow and on Friday it is the turn of the Duke of York column in the Mall and the Albert Memorial.

Sale room

Silver tankard raises £3,520 at Gleneagles

A magnificent George IV silver "lardon" tankard made in London in 1821 and decorated with a figure of a drinking Highlander within a cartouche of roses and thistles sold for £3,520 on Monday during the first session of Sotheby's annual two-day sale at Gleneagles Hotel, Perthshire.

The lid of the large silver tankard has the bear's head crest and motto of Campbell of Cammo.

The silver section of the sale totalled £59,785 and also included a George IV punch bowl engraved with the Royal Arms and made in Edinburgh in 1825, which went for £3,080.

After the successful introduction

of jewellery into Sotheby's Gleneagles sale last year, 183 lots of nineteenth and twentieth century jewels sold for a total of £106,113, including £5,380 for a late nineteenth century diamond brooch-pendant in the form of a 12-pointed star. There were also many less expensive items such as a gold and enamel brooch in the form of a pheasant which fetched £264 and a brooch designed as a gold fishing rod with a rose diamond fish which went for £463.

Sporting guns sold for a total of £246,203, with a top price of £14,300 for a lightweight pair of 12-bore self-opening sidelock ejector guns made by Purdey. Another pair of Purdey's went for £11,250.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev. Dr. M. J. P. Jackson, President of the General Synod, will be in the United Kingdom from September 1 to 10. The Rev. Dr. C. M. F. White, Vice-President of the General Synod, will be in the United Kingdom from September 1 to 10. The Rev. Dr. J. B. Schofield, Secretary of the General Synod, will be in the United Kingdom from September 1 to 10. The Rev. Dr. H. M. Steel, Treasurer of the General Synod, will be in the United Kingdom from September 1 to 10.

Scottish Episcopal Church
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University news

Oxford Election
WADHAM COLLEGE: William Fisher, Fellow and Tutor in Classics, has been elected to the post of Fellow and Tutor in Classics.

Newcastle
The following PhD degrees have been awarded: The Rev. Dr. J. B. Schofield, Secretary of the General Synod, will be in the United Kingdom from September 1 to 10. The Rev. Dr. H. M. Steel, Treasurer of the General Synod, will be in the United Kingdom from September 1 to 10. The Rev. Dr. C. M. F. White, Vice-President of the General Synod, will be in the United Kingdom from September 1 to 10. The Rev. Dr. M. J. P. Jackson, President of the General Synod, will be in the United Kingdom from September 1 to 10.

Warning to priests on child battering

By Clifford Langley
Religious Affairs
Correspondent

Clergymen should avoid the mistake of thinking it is "Christian" to give the benefit of the doubt when faced with possible child battering cases, a social worker has warned members of the National Conference of Priests, which represents the Roman Catholic clergy of England and Wales.

In a background paper to this year's conference, in Birmingham next week, Miss Valerie Kelly, an expert in family counselling, says that the difficulty in countering child abuse was persuading professionals such as doctors and social workers that it happened. The conference is on the theme of violence and the role of the clergy.

People tended to believe all sorts of unlikely explanations about how injuries happened to a child "because emotionally no one wanted to believe the reality of what was being presented to them". The same applied to sexual abuse and incest.

"We have sometimes made the mistake of thinking it is 'Christian' to give the benefit of the doubt," she says. "But that enables us to love without cost. The real test is to know the truth and still love."

The conference will discuss all aspects of violence in the modern world, political as well as domestic, and will be addressed by Mr Bruce Kent, former general secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, during its debate on war and peace.

Members will also consider a report, called for last year, into the personal problems faced by priests in their parishes, particularly emotional strain and the severe sense of isolation to which last year's conference called attention. After surveying what is already being done for the emotional welfare of priests in the dioceses of England and Wales, a working party of the conference will report back that priests are having to work in a theological vacuum concerning their role in the church after the Second Vatican Council.

The report poses five questions as examples of the uncertainty surrounding the life of a priest: What is the meaning of locked and bolted churches in big cities? What would they do if their lay catechists, teachers of religion, went on strike? Is the priest a brother or a father? Should he leave "the sheep in the field" to seek the blood of Martin Luther King worth more or less than the blood of Christ, and why?

It adds that the modern world has little regard for the priestly domain, and "he who inhabits it is mostly left alone". As a result he was torn in two because of the contrast between his private world of church religion and the sacraments, and the evident spiritual hunger in the world.

Father Gerald Burke, of Hallam diocese, who wrote the report, concluded it by suggesting the priests needed the restoration of community life, by living together with lay parish workers under one roof.

"It is often a matter of shame and ill-mutated complaint on the part of the people for an ordained minister to live alone in what is often an enormous house, which is a sign of contradiction to everything he preaches (especially when empty except for him) — a symbol of his deepest problem."

Coal tips turned into pasture for Welsh sheep

By John Young
Agricultural Correspondent

The ravaged mining valleys of South Wales could soon be restored to their pristine greenness as a result of work by the Welsh Plant Breeding Institute.

Until now it has often seemed that a coal tip would always remain a coal tip. Efforts to reclaim land left derelict by mining operations have frequently produced no more than lumpy, sparsely-grassed hillocks, that betray their origin all too clearly and which in wet weather develop into black sludge.

Trials in the Gwent mining valleys have shown that land-scaped tips can be converted economically into productive pasture, which will provide enough income for farmers to maintain it.

Farmers Weekly reports that colliery waste needs no additional top soil, is not affected by acidity and has the advantage of remaining almost entirely free of weeds. Low nitrogen levels can be rectified by planting a mixture of clover and ryegrass.

The resulting swards have been shown to be particularly good for grazing sheep, and flocks of cross-bred Suffolk and Welsh mountain lambs gained weight faster than on conventional pastures.

The Welsh Plant Breeding Institute, which is part of the National Coal Board and the Welsh Development Agency, but is said to be endangered by cuts in government money for research.

OBITUARY

THE VERY REV A. C. CRAIG Ecumenical Scottish Church leader

The Very Rev A. C. Craig, MC, who died on August 26 at the age of 96, was the first general secretary of the British Council of Churches from 1942 to 1946, and was later a leading figure in the conversations between the new church, the Church of Scotland, and the Anglican churches north and south of the Border. He was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1961-62.

Wide recognition of his exceptional gifts only came late in life. Particularly after his moderatorship he was acknowledged to be one of the outstanding leaders of the Scottish Church.

Archibald Campbell Craig, was born in 1888, son of the Rev Alexander McRae Craig. He was educated at Kilsnoo High School and the University of Edinburgh. He served as a combatant throughout the First World War, being awarded the MC in 1918.

He trained for the ministry of the United Free Church of Scotland in Glasgow College, Edinburgh, and served in pastorates of that church at Glasgow and Glasgow from 1921 to 1930. In the latter year he was called to unusual responsibility by being appointed the first chaplain of Glasgow University.

The Scottish universities had traditionally left the pastoral care of students to the episcopal ministry. Craig's chaplaincy left no doubt of the value of such direct Christian leadership in the university. The Scottish universities widely followed Glasgow's example.

His distinguished work there led to a call to wider service of the churches. In 1939 he became secretary of the church's commission on international friendship and social responsibility, and when that body was united with others in 1942 to form the British Council of Churches, Craig was the obvious choice as general secretary. He was one of William Temple's most trusted lieutenants in the then developing ecumenical field. His intellectual distinction did much to create confidence in the embryonic council.

In 1946 he left to become assistant lecturer, under Dr George MacLennan, of the Iona Community. This was not a happy time, and while he retained the deepest interest in the Community he left the staff in 1947 and returned to

He married Mary Isabel Laidlaw in 1950. She died on August 22. There were no children of the marriage.

PROF ROBERT MILNES WALKER

Professor Robert Milnes Walker, CBE, Professor of Surgery, Bristol University (1959-63), Rock Carling Fellow (1965), editor of the *Medical Annual* (1954-74), president of the association of Surgeons of Great Britain (1961), president of the Surgical Research Society (1962-64), and as a member of the medical subcommittee of the University Grants Committee 1959-67.

He was a pioneer in pulmonary and cardiac surgery but it was his contributions to the surgery of the liver, and in particular portal hypertension, which gained him an international reputation. Patients were referred to him in Bristol from all parts of the world and visiting surgeons from all corners of the globe were frequently seen in his department and operating theatre.

He developed the shunt operations for portal hypertension and pioneered an operation on the varices in the oesophagus which was widely performed throughout the world when a shunt was impossible or too dangerous.

After his retirement as Professor of Surgery, he continued to make an active contribution in the realms of administration, particularly as director of the Cancer Records Bureau, SW Regional Hospital Board (1965-74), and as director of Surgical Studies at the Royal College of Surgeons (1968-71).

He was elected Master of the Worshipful Company of Barbers in 1974, and in 1978 was co-author of a history of the company entitled *Barbers and Barber-Surgeons of London*.

He married, in 1931, Grace Anna McCormick, and they had two sons and four daughters; three of their children are medically qualified. Together they created a caring and comfortable atmosphere in a series of happy and informal homes, which provided refuge for a multitude of friends from all walks of life and many parts of the world.

Here the fruits of his hobbies, particularly carpentry and gardening, were abundantly evident, and it was here that his inherently shy and self-effacing man extended his influence, particularly in the later years, beyond the world of surgery.

MR REG LEVER

Mr Reg Lever died on August 18, aged 81. Peter Cotes writes:

Reg Lever was for many years recognized as one of this country's foremost concert party and touring revue entertainers; occasionally to be seen in West End revues and as used to say: "Much in demand at the 'miz'vals". He also worked extensively during World War II organizing and playing in numerous musical entertainments abroad and on the home front.

He had become one of the dwindling band of such regular entertainers, but Reg continued to be the "life and soul" of any party in which he figured and was a popular member of the Savage Club where, for many years, he had helped to produce the regular entertainments that were such a feature of the Club; conspicuous as they were for their originality, wit and robust good humour.

A long standing member of the Concert Party Artists Association and the Grand Order of Water Rats, he was a noted contributor to professional charities; and although his material was often "raw", his unique delivery was impeccably smooth, skilful and professionally delivered.

Fireflies help to make anaesthetics safer

By a Special Correspondent

General anaesthetics are both valuable and potentially dangerous. In a tired or careless hands, they can kill. Limitations remain until scientists understand how they work, and there was little sign of that until two British biophysicists began to study the action of anaesthetics on fireflies.

Their first discovery was that a protein that provides the firefly's glow seems to have a receptor, or pocket, into which the molecules of general anaesthetics neatly fit, blocking its action and turning off the firefly light. With that knowledge Dr Nick Franks and Dr Bill Lieb, of Imperial College, London, questioned whether the human brain had

similar receptors that the anaesthetics blocked, causing a patient to lose consciousness.

However, it might have been mere chance that the anaesthetics blocked "luciferase", the firefly protein, just as they blocked consciousness in the brain. But then came the second discovery: that chemical changes in the anaesthetics that weakened or strengthened their effect on the brain had an exactly parallel weakening or strengthening effect on the blocking of luciferase.

It would be difficult to understand this similarity if the receptor on luciferase was not very like some receptor in the brain, how given the name "consciousness receptor".

"Franks and Lieb first tried a variety of different known

anaesthetics, varying in potency a millionfold, on the firefly. Luciferase-dimming followed accordingly.

Then they selected two series of anaesthetics, alcohols and alkanes, which are simply carbon chains, in the first case with a hydroxyl group attached. They modified the anaesthetics by changing the lengths of the chain. Experiments on animals have shown that adding carbon chains to anaesthetics, or lengthening them, first increases anaesthetic potency; but beyond a certain length of chain, the anaesthetic effect suddenly disappears. Would the same occur with luciferase?

It does, Franks and Lieb found. The anaesthetics stop blocking luciferase at about 14

carbon atoms long for the alcohol anaesthetics, and 7-10 atoms long for the alkanes. "This is exactly the same cut-off that you see in animals", Franks says, thus making it hard to argue that the luciferase receptor and the "consciousness receptor" are not all but identical.

So it seems, poetically enough, that the dying of the firefly's light is little different from the "dying of the light" of consciousness, and that the luciferase pocket must now be sought in the brain.

Next, however, comes a bigger problem: how to find that pocket. The trouble is that general anaesthetics are simple molecules soluble in fat, "and half the brain is fat", Franks says. Thus

radioactively-labelled anaesthetics can be found almost everywhere in the brain, just as drugs taken by mouth spread throughout the body, giving no clue to the place where they are actually taking effect.

Now Franks and Lieb have the luciferase receptor to play with, they hope both to measure its shape and chemical characteristics exactly, and to find some molecule — perhaps an artificial antibody — which binds very specifically to the luciferase pocket and to nothing else.

Such a molecule in the brain ought to pick out the exact sites of general anaesthetic action — and hence, extraordinarily, the seat of consciousness itself.

Source: *Nature* vol 316 p345.

THE ARTS

Geoff Brown at the Locarno Film Festival

French Brontë shuns the romantic ardour

"They don't call it the beholder's disease for nothing", the doctor told Richard Kiley in the glutinous television movie *Do You Remember Love*, shown at 10 am on the festival's first day. The reference was to Alzheimer's Disease, from which Joanne Woodward suffered with the expected flair. As the days progressed the festival's own beholders became prone to other ailments and problems, from the hard seats and carelessly cut videotapes to the crazy afternoon heat and a certain bus-driver with a death-wish. But Locarno also provided a beholder's feast: for all its perilous closeness to Venice on the film critic's calendar, the festival regularly unveils unexpected pleasures, enterprising retrospectives (this year, the subject was the quirky Russian director Boris Barnet) and major world premières, like Jacques Rivette's *Huile*.

Or in other words *Wuthering*—for this is a version of Emily Brontë's famous French novel *Les Hauts de Hurlevent*. Rivette previously forswore adaptations of classic books following a troublesome time with Diderot's *La Religieuse* in 1965; but his return to a set text, after years of improvised meanderings should not be taken as a capitulation to mainstream cinema. Rivette remains his own intransigent master.

The setting is transferred from the Yorkshire moors to central Provence in the 1930s; Catherine keeps her original name, but Heathcliff becomes "Roch". The brute monosyllabic is entirely appropriate, for Rivette has no truck with romantic ardour or Gothic mystery: the characters express themselves through yells, scowls, punches, pummels, scuffles and the odd fit of biting. While his young, unknown and overstretched performers thus cavort, Rivette adopts a lordly, objective directorial style, only occasionally shaping events with a flourish. Scenes like the couple's first mad dash across the parched summer landscape and a suggestive conversational encounter atop a billiard table hint at the stark passions waiting to be unleashed; but the film's clinical style and inexperienced performers successfully conspire to batten them down.

The festival's disappointments, however, were regularly offset by unaltered delights, like Donna Deitch's *Desert Hearts*, a wonderfully assured first feature by an American documentary-maker. The story begins with Vivian (Helen Shaver), a self-contained New York teacher, arriving in Reno for a quick divorce, some time in the Fifties. "God's backyard", her ranch hostess warbles as they drive through the crags and scrub—"just sit back and let it clean out the insecurities". But events happen otherwise: the hostess's lesbian step-daughter (Patricia Charbonneau) sets her sights on Vivian's friendship, and Vivian, to her bafflement, finds herself responding. She cleans herself out, in other words, by letting the insecurities in; and the process is utterly absorbing. Natalie Cooper's script, from a novel



Wuthering in Provence: Fabienne Babe and Lucas Belvaux as Catherine and Roch

by Janet Rule, allows the characters to articulate their feelings without ascending into wordy clouds; while the performers explore the human heart with sympathy, delicacy and ease. The film's emotional maturity is matched every step by its technique. It takes real guts and skill, for example, to use so many vertical wipes in the editing, inching out the old scene with delicious languor.

To some *Desert Hearts* had the weight and glow of a major prize-winner; the festival's jury placed it fourth, below a German study in Berlin life, *Tageliebe*, the ravishing Chinese *Yellow Earth*, and *Hohenheim*, by a veteran of modern Swiss cinema, Fredi M. Murer. This intimate story of a remote farming family carried off Locarno's Golden Leopard and found much popular support; though Murer's near-sighted camera stuck so close to his characters, scenery and cows that a sense of perspective could be properly achieved by leaving the cinema, which I did. Chen Kaige's *Yellow Earth*, a story of family and patriotic duty in the late Thirties, provided the perfect antidote, presenting its landscapes as moral and cultural forces, not just pretty pictures.

Britain's hour came in the television movies competition. The BBC's *Contact*, a fierce account of an army patrol in Northern Ireland, written by a

former army parachutist, A. F. N. Clarke, and directed by Alan Clarke, won first prize. Zenith Productions' *Flanagan Begin Again*, in which Robert Preston and Mary Tyler Moore forge an offbeat relationship out of various personal crises, came second. The latter, however, is British only on paper; in conception, staffing and execution, Joan Micklin Silver's film is entirely American, targeted squarely at a television audience fully sympathetic to the problems of widowhood and middle-age, and assiduously cultivating its star performers like an old-style Hollywood two-hander.

Contact, by contrast, strikes at the heart of British television traditions. Its genre is the drama-documentary, where the handheld camerawork, locations and the absence of narrative glue foster the sense of immediate reality. We follow a border patrol on its manhunt and ambushes; "Don't get involved, boss, it's bad for the brain", says one of the boys, repeating the boss's own advice. For the audience, though, involvement is inevitable and total—a state rarely achieved elsewhere in a competition section weighed down with machine-tooled American fodder thinly coated with social significance.

Mention should be made, however, of Tina Rathbone's *The Joy That Kiba*, a neat American adaptation of a Kaye Chopin story, and a Polish hymn to nature and the human cycle. The

Four Seasons, in which the director Andrzej Kondratiuk valiantly tried to be Andrei Tarkovsky. The result was infuriating, but at least it broke the mould of well-behaved literary stodge or earnest doctors telling the stars. "We don't know the causes—we do know the results. Would you like a glass of water?"

Locarno's best showcase for cinematic ingenuity was the Boris Barnet retrospective (supported as usual by an immaculate publication). Barnet came to cinema in the Twenties with experience in acting and boxing; his early comedies team with physical action pushed to the Mack Sennett level. Everyone trips or slips on dogs, geese, ice or each other. Barnet views the turmoil with an unobtrusive camera, avoiding the montage effects made famous by Eisenstein.

He also, for a time, avoided state politics: *The Girl with a Hairbrush* (1927) was meant to promote lottery tickets, though the advert is buried beneath exuberant gags and a benign celebration of human frailties. Propaganda later gained the upper hand and Barnet sang the praises of indomitable Russian poets and mothers in a simple, lyrical style. Most of these films travelled to London in 1980 for the National Film Theatre's pioneering season, but we still need our elbows jogged about Barnet's great gifts. For this, and for much more, one is grateful to Locarno.



Transfer trouble

Miss Julie
Lyceum

On its first appearance in Cape Town last February, this production provoked noisy walk-outs and recreated the sense of outrage that first greeted the play a century ago. By substituting colour for class it became a front-line event in the anti-apartheid campaign, and shed honour on the actors John Kani and Sandra Prinsloo for challenging their country's racist taboos and on the Baxter Theatre for taking the risk.

Seeing the show in Edinburgh, however, is a very different thing. As in the case of the same company's *Waiting for Godot* (also with Mr Kani) when it appeared at the Old Vic, you become acutely aware that a work that created tremendous repercussions against its own national sound-board has been transplanted into a void. In South Africa the performance dealt a blow to an iniquitous system; over here, the only question is whether it is a good production of *Miss Julie*.

As you might suppose from Brian Collins's black and white walk-down set (an expressionist design for a naturalistic masterpiece), the play has undergone drastic over-simplification. Strindberg was not writing about revolution, Jean (here renamed John) is a servant to his bones, whatever his social climbing pretensions. Julie, whatever her decadence, retains the power of aristocratically tragic action beyond his scope.

As directed by Bobby Heaney the partnership changes all too literally into a conflict of black



Every trick in the vamp's handbook: Sandra Prinsloo with John Kani

and white. Almost immediately it runs into trouble. Mr Kani bounds on, bubbling over with news to tell Christine as she serves him dinner; and they proceed into a scene of broad kitchen comedy as two affectionate Africans who are made for each other. There is no trace of John's genetic aspirations. He dips his fingers into the food. And, on tasting the stolen wine, remarks "Not warm enough"—thus killing the original point of the line where he describes it as "insufficiently chamber".

With such a bond between the two servants what place is there for Julie? Miss Prinsloo answers this by arriving in a short skirt and tumbling blonde hair to play every trick in the vamp's handbook. As Strindberg wrote the opening scene Julie achieves eroticism by teasing changes between invitation and authority. That particular excitement, and the sense of a character at war with herself, is missing here as the actress makes hardly any show of pulling rank.

As the scene develops it appears that Mr Kani is not so much interested in making

Irving Wardle

Television

Memories of magnificence

What has been billed as "the greatest single archaeological discovery in England" had prosaic enough beginnings. In 1938 the owner of a Suffolk estate decided, since it was a slack year, to investigate some mounds in her grounds. "What about that one?" she asked a quaint scarecrow-like figure called Basil, who spoke in lifting vernacular.

Topped and tailed by two rather halting contemporary experts, Paul Johnstone's original 1963 film *The Million Pound Grave* (BBC2) reminded us slowly and simply of what, with the gold leaf blowing about him, Basil chanced upon in "that one": an 85-foot Saxon clinker containing oystery Byzantine silver, Indian garnets, French coins, Swedish regalia and a pillow stuffed with goose feathers. In short, the most magnificent collection of Saxon jewellery ever found.

One of the many archaeologists to work on the site remembered entering a local pub. When asked, jokingly, if he had found any gold, he produced from his pocket the great gold buckle from the belt of a king.

The identity of this king was difficult to establish. The excavators had come upon no body ("the so-called cenotaph problem"). Like figures in a very period drama, specialists were wheeled into a gloomy studio to solve this Dark Age whodunit. They suggested there probably had been a body—that of King Redwald, who died in 625. What surprised was not so much that his treasure should have survived intact for 1,300 years, but that in 20 years the voices of its discoverers should sound so dated.

Recordings of Peter Pears are unlikely to suffer that fate. The *Tenor Man's Story* (Central), a run-of-the-mill celebration of one of this century's leading tenors, showed him as a distinguished-looking man with

a shock of white hair and a happy life. In answer to Donald Mitchell's probing as to the best part of it, Pears had no problem in saying "unquestionably, of course, my life with Ben". He saw his 40-year professional and personal relationship with Britten as "a gift from God".

While Mitchell never elicited all he could have done about the nature of this gift, we did get nuggets from Pears's earlier, unremarkable life, such as his prowess at cricket and the jealousy he felt for his father. In fact one of the programme's charms was the contrast between Pears's engaging ordinariness—"I think about the world, I suppose, slightly"—and his extraordinary voice, which sang over Suffolk breakwaters, boats on the shingle and gulls flying slowly through stills of him playing Britten's many parts.

Nicholas Shakespeare

Promenade Concert

Riotous revels in the American jazz age

Sinfonietta/Rattle
Albert Hall/BBC2/
Radio 3

Controversy about Prom programming has become as regular as the concerts themselves, if somewhat less enjoyable, and this year the British music lobby has followed the usual course in ignoring the fact that works have to be not only chosen but performed. Merely

duffed executions of Vaughan Williams or Delius are unlikely to make anyone very happy, and at the moment there is a shortage of conductors who can make these composers live. On the other hand, we have in Simon Rattle a musician who can certainly generate high excitement in American music of the jazz age, as we heard at Monday night's Bank Holiday party of a Prom.

My own complaint about the Albert Hall repertoire this year would be that the American theme has been too timidly exposed, but it is hard to be grudging after an evening entirely of American music, and one so riotously successful.

Mr Rattle has played Gersh-

win and Bernstein a good deal, with his Birmingham orchestra and as here with the London Sinfonietta, and he knows how to encourage the kind of enthusiasm that will show itself in clear, lively rhythms, in polished ensemble and in period effects, like slides and exaggerated vibrato on the strings. He knows too that our enjoyment of such things these days has to be ironic: there were moments in Gershwin's *Strike Up the Band* Overture, for instance, that suggested the parody world of Maxwell Davies in *Thirties Mood*, though generally Mr Rattle kept to the necessary narrow line between straightness and send-up.

Possibly this becomes easier if one reverts to unfamiliar original orchestrations: then the irony becomes that of an historical expedition, such as was conducted when we were taken back to the first version of *Rhapsody in Blue* as heard by Stravinsky and others in 1924. As one knows from Michael Tilson Thomas's recent recording, it makes the later symphonic instrumentation sound fat and unwholesome. The scoring is still Ferde Grofé's but the colours are sharp and demand similar brilliance from the pianist. Ronald Brautigam on this occasion was rhythmically stylish and speedy of attack, a little too often unnerved towards wrong notes.

While going back to the initial Gershwin, Mr Rattle preferred the second thoughts of Copland and Ives, using the enlarged Sinfonietta to play the former's full orchestral reworking of his *Appalachian Spring* and choosing the familiar reduced version of the latter's *Three Places in New England*. Both benefited from the crisp contours and springy steps shown off in Gershwin and Bernstein, even if the last of Ives's *Places* here had points in common with Mahler's *Austria* in the crucial weight given to certain harmonic twists. Maybe geography is not so important after all.

Paul Griffiths

South Bank Summer Music

John Williams
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Taste—a critic's as much as anyone else's—is usually an unfavourable thing, and that of John Williams is no exception. At the beginning of his South Bank Summer Music recital he was to be found charming the ear and stimulating the intellect with as refined an account of Bach's Fourth Lute Suite as you are likely to hear. The elegance of the "Loure", for instance, was artfully balanced by the

coasting, subtle swagger of the following "Gavotte en Rondeau", and throughout there was a command of nuance guaranteed to endear the music to even the most reluctant customer.

But later John Williams the populist also made his presence felt with the first London performance of *Three Pieces* by Steve Gray, a member, as Williams used to be himself, of the group Sky. Gray's pieces, let it at once be said, are far removed from the smooth, "easy-listening" sound I re-

member from that particular ensemble. Nevertheless they are still concerned more with passing the time of day than with saying anything, for all the chromatic adventures of the first piece and the gentle melancholy of the bluesy second.

To be fair I have to record the fact that the triptych was received rapturously. A degree less enthusiasm greeted the Cuban composer Leo Brouwer's substantial if conservative *Variations on a Theme of Django Reinhardt*, composed

last year and based on the jazz guitarist's *Auages*. Here Brouwer challenges the musical resourcefulness of the soloist to the full, as does Manuel Ponce in his otherwise over-ambitious *Variations and Fugue on "La Folia"* and Villa-Lobos in his exquisite set of *Five Preludes*. Needless to say, and despite the disease of the chest, Williams's playing was never found wanting.

Stephen Pettitt

London theatre

Dillinger
Old Red Lion

Hollywood has irretrievably distorted the image we have received of the great gangsters of this century—if, indeed, we would have had much of an image at all without the mythopoetic process of the movies.

The writer and director Robin Carls has had the acute idea of presenting a dramatized biography of the great John Dillinger as a succession of scenes from a film project conceived by one

Zarkovich, a man with a sure instinct for public taste; official disavowal provides an additional twist to the plot, in that the Hayes Office, that draconian guardian of pre-war moral probity, has already pronounced that the film cannot be released in the States in its subject's lifetime.

So we have the gangster himself (played with much conviction by the lean, hollow-cheeked Jeremy Peters) being rehearsed in the key episodes of his own story: early days in the Dustbowl; his first bank raid; his celebrated jailbreak using a wooden gun after which he gave his hostages four dollars each for car fare; cashed-hand pursuit by the then less-than-competent FBI; and the final betrayal when he is gunned down after leaving a picture house. "We're gonna wind up dead in the last act", his moll (Shanti Francis) has promised; he does, she does not.

The framing device necessarily makes the piece programmatic, which would not be such

a bad thing if the writing were up to snuff. When, early on, one of the supporting cast declares "I think about him now and then", another replies "As do I". As? Well, thank God for grammar. And I frankly doubt that the word "lifestyle" was current half a century ago.

Much of the dialogue has been taken straight off the shelf

marked "Blockbuster", and the sum effect is one of feeble romanticizing without ever striking the elegiac note which was surely intended. The notes that Richard Macnamara coaxes from his slide guitar are a saving grace.

Martin Cropper

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1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E

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1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E

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1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

TSB launches £8m drive to recruit shareholders

The TSB Group officially launched yesterday an £8 million marketing campaign to support its planned flotation on the Stock Exchange next February.

About £5 million is to be spent on TV, press and poster advertising between November and the issue. There will also be roadshows, mailings and displays in the TSB's 1,600 branches. A TSB Group share information office has been established to handle the huge demand for information the bank, its promoters and advisers are expecting.

The aim is to attract more than 9 million shareholders into the TSB Group and to appeal to a much wider social spectrum than British Telecom, which spent £17.5 million on launch, marketing.

TSB is hoping to recruit more than a half of its new army of shareholders from its own customers. To succeed it must sell shares to people who have only the faintest notion of what share ownership means. The British Telecom issue attracted in a fair number of people in Socio-economic groups C1 and C2, but the majority of its first time shareholders were in the AB Income categories. Only 8 per cent of TSB's customers are ABs. Some 37 per cent are C1s and C2s and 35 per cent are DEs.

The TSB will offer loyalty bonuses to shareholders who stay with their shares for more than three years. Payment for shares will be in two instalments. But these and other inducements are merely icing on the cake. TSB customers should not need much coaxing if the new share information office does its job with even minimal competence. Literally they cannot afford not to apply for shares.

In the first place, as the TSB is not owned by the Government or its depositors, the proceeds of the sale will go straight into the bank's balance sheet for the immediate good of customers and shares alike.

In the second place, it does not need an AB intellect to realize that however Lazard Brothers prices the offer, it cannot help but do so generously.

US productivity brings more gloom

The US productivity figures, released in Washington yesterday, encouraged the foreign exchange markets in particular to think that the recent gloom about the American economy had been overdone. A closer look at the figures suggests that they are wrong and the earlier gloom was not misplaced.

US non-farm productivity rose at a revised annual rate of 1.0 per cent in the second quarter, after falling by 3.1 per cent in the first quarter. Though at first sight a good sign, the figures are further evidence that the economy is slowing.

There was a small rise, of 2.2 per cent at an annualized rate, in output in the second quarter, accompanied by a smaller, 1.2 per cent, increase in hours worked. Although the output rise was better than the first-quarter's pale 0.5 per cent, the second-quarter increase in hours worked was well below the 3.7 per cent rise of the first three months. This statistic, better than the output figures, indicates that the economic slowdown had really begun to bite.

The turnaround in productivity becomes an even less convincing story when the contribution of the financial sector is stripped out. Non-financial productivity

fell at an annualized 0.3 per cent rate in the second quarter, after slipping back 2.5 per cent in the first.

Yesterday's figures, therefore, reflect and reinforce the sluggishness of the US economy. Productivity growth is well below that in Japan and Germany and even Britain. Britain's manufacturing productivity, using American-style statistical comparisons, rose at an annualized rate of about 2 per cent in the second quarter, after a 4 per cent rise in the first.

There is, however, one important respect in which the Americans, not to mention the others, are doing far better than the British. Non-farm unit labour costs in the US slowed to a 2.3 per cent annualized rise in the second quarter, after rising 8.4 per cent in the first.

Our own unit labour costs, virtually static 18 months ago, are now rising about 6 per cent a year in manufacturing. This is despite above-average productivity growth, compared with long-term trends. If productivity slows, the wick under British competitiveness would be turned down even lower.

Trend is back to index-linked stocks

The market for index-linked stocks has now gone without a tap since Treasury 2½ per cent 2013 ran out on July 24. During the last month, this sector has jumped by about 2½ per cent, a performance broadly comparable with the rise in February when the authorities left index-linked alone for a fortnight.

Late on Friday, there was clear evidence of buyers coming in for index-linked stocks after the Government Broker had failed to appear. Stock was sold at offer prices. If the Government Broker is again absent this week, the traders could be in there dealing, looking for the usual strong movement in prices that characterizes index-linked stocks.

It is a moot point whether the authorities are keen to encourage switching out of conventional government stocks into index-linked but the thrust of their money market activities endorses, at least for the time being, the wisdom of making such a move.

Faced with money market shortages yesterday of some £850 million, the Bank of England took out most of the shortage via bill purchases, but compelled the discount houses to borrow some £140 million at expensive rates. This maintained the tighter policies towards the houses which have been a feature of recent trading sessions.

This implicit increase in the cost of financing the bill portfolio showed up explicitly elsewhere in the money market, where three-month interbank rate, for example, firmed ½ point to 1½ per cent. Higher money market rates in London, which to some extent mirror what is happening in New York, support the Bank's reluctance to endorse current yields for conventional gilts.

The conventional market is by and large untapped. Only one stock, T4easy 9½ per cent 2002, is now classified as an official tap, and this gilt is stranded about ½ point away from its next selling level, at £25½. It is hard to accept that the authorities plan to pivot the entire market through the long end when the current tap, which operates more as a control stock, looks so expensive.

Drop in imports helps trade surplus climb to £444m

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

Britain's balance of payments improved sharply last month, to a current account surplus of £444 million, compared with a £284 million deficit in June. The deficit on visible trade fell £160 million to £56 million.

The improvement resulted mainly from a £365 million drop in imports to £6,380 million, their lowest level for a year. Exports also dipped, by £205 million to £6,324 million, the lowest since last October.

At the same time, record West German current account and trade surpluses announced in Bonn. West Germany's trade surplus rose DM1.3 billion to DM 6.8 billion (£1.75 billion) last month.

The current account, in deficit by DM300 million in June, improved to a record DM2.1 billion surplus last month.

Balance of Payments		
	Current balance £m	Visible trade £m
1983	3,167	-836
1984	935	-1,101
1985 Q1	-635	-1,283
July	1,278	-222
Aug	444	-56

Source: Department of Trade and Industry

Despite these records, the mark lost ground against both the dollar and sterling. The dollar rose 3½ pence to DM2.7910 in London, the pound gained 2½ pence to DM3.8513, but lost 85 points to \$1.3902 against the dollar.

The fall in Britain's imports last month, although partly due to a £61 million drop in oil imports, was mainly due to a sharp fall in imports of manufactured products.

Excluding erratic items,

manufactured imports fell by 7 per cent compared with June. Imports of passenger cars fell by £115 million to £342 million, with the passing of the June peak for imports timed to get into the showrooms for the August new registrations.

Exports of manufactures as a whole rose by £65 million, excluding erratic, and Britain's trade deficit in manufactured goods narrowed from £818 million in June to £408 million. The surplus on oil was £693 million last month, compared with £843 million in June.

The overall visible trade deficit of £56 million was turned into a £444 million current account surplus by the estimated £500 million surplus

on invisibles. The cumulative current account surplus of £1,187 million is, with the effects earlier in the year of the coal strike, in line with the Treasury's forecast of a £3 billion surplus for the year.

There is little support in the figures for the view of the Confederation of British Industry that, at present exchange rate levels, exporters are being hit and importers enjoying a boom. Indeed, in the latest three months, imports from the United States fell 25 per cent, while exports to the United States rose 9 per cent, although much of this was in oil.

However, Whitehall statisticians fear exports may have begun to show an underlying decline. Imports, while erratic on a month-to-month basis, are thought to be flat.

France recorded a current account surplus of Fr1 billion (£430 million) in the second quarter.

IN BRIEF

Hong Kong bank up 9%

Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation's after-tax profit for the six months ended June 30 rose 9 per cent to HK\$1.11 billion or 35 cents a share, from HK\$1.02 billion, or an adjusted 32 cents a share, in the first half of 1984.

The banks results do not reflect transfers to inner reserves accounts which banks in the crown colony are allowed to keep without disclosure. Interim dividend is 15 cents a share, up from an adjusted 13.6 HK-cents a share for the first half of 1984.

The chairman, Mr Michael Sandberg, said that increased loan demand from the recovering property sector contributed to higher profits.

He said profits were also helped by a 9.7 per cent growth in earnings at the bank's 61 per cent owned Hang Seng Bank unit and an 11 per cent rise at its 51 per cent held Marine Midland Bank Incorporated.

However, he said the British Bank of the Middle East showed lower profits because of the impact of lower oil prices on economies in the Middle East.

Woodrow rise

Taylor Woodrow, the construction group, lifted profits from £13.1 million to £14.7 million before tax in the six months to June 30. Turnover was up from £250 million to £262 million and the interim dividend is unchanged at 4p. *Tempos, page 17*

Pleasure sale

Pleasure is collecting £23.5 million from the sale of its share stakes in two London casinos. It also reported half-year pretax profits of £16 million. *Tempos, page 17*

Mr Ernest Saunders, chief executive of Guinness and a former Beecham employee, has recruited Mr Victor Steel from Beecham to be managing director of Guinness Brewing Worldwide. Mr Steel also joins the main board.

Samuelson up

Samuelson Group, the film equipment hire company, has increased pretax profits for the year to March 31 to £2.9 million from £1.4 million. A final dividend of 1.3p makes 1.5p for the year against 1.33p last time. *Tempos, page 17*

Inflation accounting takes to the road

By Ian Griffiths

The Accounting Standards Committee is preparing for a series of road shows next month when it will unveil its latest proposals on inflation accounting.

Presentations will be made to the main accountancy bodies, industry representatives, and authorities such as the Bank of England in an attempt to identify criticisms of the new plans about how companies should reflect the impact of inflation on the figures in their annual accounts.

The accountancy profession has been struggling to develop an effective and acceptable method of dealing with inflation accounting since the 1970s. So far, it has failed to do so amidst a series of embarrassing rebuffs from the Government, industry, and accountants themselves.

The ASC is keen to avoid a repetition of the most recent embarrassment when its exposure draft, ED35, setting out inflation accounting rules, had to be withdrawn completely after it attracted widespread criticism inside and outside the profession.

By using the road show approach the ASC hopes to iron out any problems before a new exposure draft is presented to the public.

The latest proposals are more flexible than previous rules, and offer companies the choice of adopting either operating or financial capital maintenance concepts as the basis for providing inflation-adjusted information.

A comprehensive book setting out the thinking behind the financial capital maintenance concept will be published next month.

It is still the intention of the committee to present the rules by way of a full accounting standard, rather than the less authoritative statement of recommended practice, although there has already been some pressure for the latter approach to be adopted.

The inflation accounting information would be contained in a note to the accounts which means it will still be subject to audit.

Brave bid to create a Reid & Taylor world

The tartan designed for Tokyo

By Graham Searjeant

Mr John Packer, managing director of Reid & Taylor, has started what he hopes will be a bid to create a whole Reid & Taylor world. He has already started selling his luxury cloths for women's clothing. Reid & Taylor has registered a new house tartan, a suitably upmarket alternative to the Burberry check.

The development illustrates how the small but profitable border mill, earning something under £500,000 for its parent Allied Textiles, is so different from most of the British textile industry.

"Our Japanese customer said you must create a whole Reid & Taylor world," Mr Packer explained. He decided that must be a Scottish world, and the tartan, in different cloths, is now available in Japan, and Germany, the best markets for a company that exports 93 per cent of its £3 million sales.

More will go into umbrellas, dressing gowns, luggage, jackets (from Austin Reed) and scarves than kilts and it will feature in a new section at Harrods from November.

The first British sighting will take place tonight at the

Japanese face rare bid battle

From Hikaru Kerna
Tokyo



John Packer: inspired approach to marketing

Minebea, a leading Japanese miniature bearings manufacturer listed on the Tokyo stock exchange, is facing the threat of an unfriendly takeover - rare in Japan - by Trafalgar Holdings, a United States investment group.

Mr Charles Knapp, Trafalgar's chairman and chief executive, announced the purchase from Glen International, a British company, of options on about 23 per cent of Minebea's shares.

Tokyo's investment community was apparently unaware of the takeover plans. Minebea's shares soared to the maximum points allowable in a day. It is believed there that Glen International was able to gather the options on Minebea's shares, convertible bonds and bonds with warrants inconspicuously in the over-the-counter Euromarket.

A complicating factor, though favourable to Trafalgar, is that Minebea has succeeded in purchasing about 19 per cent of the shares of Sankyo Seiki, a medium-sized electronic and precision equipment maker, in an effort to force a merger. Mr Knapp said he might acquire one or both of Minebea and Sankyo Seiki.

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\$2.25m fine agreed by Crocker

Washington (Reuters) - The United States Treasury Department fined Crocker National Bank \$2.25 million (£1.6 million) for failures to report cash transactions exceeding \$10,000.

Crocker, a subsidiary of Midland Bank, said it agreed to the settlement rather than incur the cost of protracted legal proceedings.

It had established a reserve for a substantial portion of the settlement, and the balance would not have a material effect on its results.

With several other leading US banks, Crocker failed to interpret correctly changes introduced in 1980 in the reporting requirements governing currency transactions.

Many previously unreported transactions were reported to the treasury in April this year, most related to routine shipments from banks overseas and had already been reported to the US customs service.

Argentina wins further \$4.2bn in bank loans

From Maxwell Newton New York

Argentina and its creditors yesterday signed a contract in New York providing for rescheduling of debts and provision of \$4.2 billion (£3.02 billion) in fresh credits.

Citibank, heading a committee representing about 350 creditors' banks of Argentina, previously said that the rescheduling could be signed last February. But several small and foreign banks were reluctant to provide their share of the new loans.

But Argentina's decision to launch an attack on inflation this month is likely to be down to 3 per cent, according to Senator Juan Sourrouille, Argentina's

economy minister, in New York. Argentina's inflation rate was previously running at 1,000 per cent a year.

Argentina under the new contract is to be offered \$4.2 billion in new credits, payable in four instalments, between September and March.

There will be rescheduling and lower interest rates on \$13.9 billion maturing through the end of this year.

The second half of an agreement to restructure about half of Mexico's foreign debt is due tomorrow. The agreement covers \$20.1 billion in debt of Mexican government agencies falling due from this year.

Poco's £1 buy

Milbury, the building group previously run by Mr James Raper, confirmed yesterday that St Piran's controlling stake has been sold to Poco Builders for £1. Mr Raper and Mr Douglas Allen have resigned from the Milbury board, and have been replaced by Mr R. Dixon and Mr J. Hindle, who are seeking legal advice on an order by Mr Justice Scott that the board should take steps to protect and pursue the company's assets.

Fraser credit

House of Fraser, the Harrods store group, has launched a telephone service to offer potential customers a credit card for use in its stores. It hopes to double its present million Frasercard holders.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	890.1 (-1.3)
FT All Share	890.1 (-1.3)
FT Govt Securities	83.60 (-0.10)
FT-SE 100	1310.8 (-2.7)
DataStream USM	104.64 (+0.24)
New York	
Dow Jones	1321.90 (+4.28)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	12,691.41 (+38.64)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1667.30 (-2.69)
Amsterdam	217.6 (+0.2)
Sydney AO	941.80 (+0.1)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1461.3 (+32.5)
Brussels	
General	361.09 (+23.09)
Paris CAC	219.7 (+0.8)
Zurich	
SKA General	408.50 (-0.80)

GOLD

London fixing:	
am \$335.25-335.00	
close \$334.50-335.00	\$240.50-
241.00	
New York:	
Comex (Latest)	\$334.95

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Intervia Video	5p +2.50
Cannon Str. Inv	45p +7p
Wiggins Group	37p +5p
Raine Inds	26p +8p
Zygal Dynamics	25p +3p
Bionics	21p +2p
Grosvenor Group	130p +11p
Stoddard Hds	12p +1p
Mackay Hugs	87p +7p
Consultants C. F.	52p +4p
Frost (J. & D.)	78p +6p
Mejelle Inv	124p +8p
Stewart Nairn	14p +1p
Kean & Scott	42p +3p
Barbican	350p +25p
Williams Hds	381p +23p
KCA Drilling	35p +2p
Emess Lighting	265p +15p
Samuelson Group	270p +15p
Bullers	37p +2p
Sennah Rubber	1750p +100p
McAlpine (Alfred)	264p +14p

FALLS:

Metals Sciences	7p -1p
Audiomatic	4p -0.50
East Rand Cons	38p -4p
Radio City "A" NV	30p -3p
Pineapple Dance	33p -3p

CURRENCIES

London:	
\$: £1.3902 (-0.0085)	
DM: £3.8613 (+0.0260)	
Sfr: £3.1858 (+0.0284)	
FF: £11.8492 (+0.0738)	
Yen: £22.84 (-1.02)	
£ Index: 82.1 (-0.1)	
New York:	
\$: £1.3900	
DM: £2.7612	
£ Index: 136.8 (+1.1)	
SC1 £10.573847	
SDR n.a.	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 11½%	
3-month Interbank: 11½-11¾%	
3-month eligible bills	
buying rate 11½-11¾%	
US:	
Prime Rate: 9.50%	
Federal Funds 7½%	
3-month Treasury Bills 7.07-7.06%	
Long bond	
yield	
102-102½	

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[illegible]

Base
Lending
Rates

STOCK-MARKET REPORT

Phillips Patents board agrees bid

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Mr Jim Rowland-Jones, the 59-year-old chairman of Phillips Patents, who has been a board director since 1970, was yesterday on the receiving end of a takeover bid - and he is accepting.

Since he ended his days as an attacking shareholder Mr Rowland-Jones has quietly presided over the affairs of Phillips Patents (Holdings), a Manchester business making rubber goods (including meteorological balloons) and taking in property interests.

The company's shares have climbed from about 15p to yesterday's 59p, up 7p in the past decade. In its last financial year Phillips made a £16,419 loss. In 1980 profits were £18,000.

Now Mr Rowland-Jones and his co-directors, with 33.5 per cent of the shares, are accepting an offer from Bremner, the revamped Glasgow warehouse group, which prices the company at about 59p a share.

Bremner, where Sir Hugh Fraser was for eight weeks non-executive chairman earlier this year, now consists of a retail store, cash and property. Its shares were little changed at 59p.

Shares started the last leg of what has been a surprisingly strong long holiday account on a subdued note.

At the close the FT 30 share index was down 1.3 points at 990.1 points. The more broadly based FT-SE index finished at 1,310.8 points, down 2.7 points.

Trading was, once again, often down to the merest trickle. Interest rate hopes continued to help sentiment but worries about a possible rail strike kept a check on buying activity.

Distillers Co., the spirits group, was the outstanding FT index constituent. Its shares surged 15p to a 329p 1985 peak as rumours swirled of bid interest. There was evidence of American buying and talk that in the event of an offer the company would be worth more than 500p a share.

Arthur Bell & Sons, the DCL's smaller but aggressive

business, kept up its recent run with a 2p rise to 154p. Half-year profits news is due in the next Account and Quilter Goodison, the broker, reckons City expectations of up to £25 million at the pretax level will be comfortably beaten. In the first half of 1984 Delta made just under £20 million pretax.

JJ & D Frost shares rose 6p to 75p on news of a deal with Elf Oil (GB) on the running of 51 leasehold petrol stations. Interim figures are also due soon from Frost.

Share prices among insurance brokers, helped by takeover hopes in the sector, Hogg Robinson is thought to be due a bid from Willis Faber and the Hogg shares edged 2p better to 285p. Stewart Wrightson also found support, though market men were reluctant to put that down to takeover hopes. Wrightson shares gained 15p to 652p.

Composite insurers were fancied and prices slipped back by pennies. The sector, however, still retains the afterglow of improved profit and underwriting figures seen earlier this month.

Banking shares weakened as the spectre of Brazilian debt loomed again, prices of the four leading clearing banks fell several pence early in the day, but were off the worst level as trading came to a close.

Oil shares traded, in the main, quietly, but British Petroleum and Enterprise Oil provided some action. BP picked up 5p to 553p and Enterprise was back at 149p, up 5p after news of acquisitions of more North Sea production potential. Enterprise shares have languished around 76p in the past two months but are

now within 15p of this year's peak.

Comast Properties rose 6p to 248p on its involvement in a development in Harlow, Essex, and its £1.3 million acquisition of the 60 per cent interest in a property offshoot it did not already own. The vendor Majestic Investments, up 6p at 78p, has obtained investment trust status a remains 7.5 per cent of Countrywide.

Gears Gross, the advertising agency, rose 3p to 74p.

May & Hassell, the timber merchant, was unchanged at 78p as Latin American Deltec Securities increased its shareholding to 14.1 per cent.

Jacobson Townley & Co, one of the City's youngest brokers, has placed 15 million shares in Jack L Israel, importers and distributors of canned fruits and vegetables, at 20p each. USM dealings are due to start on Monday. Profits for the year to next March are forecast at £1.3 million. The issue will produce £1 million for the company and £2 million for selling shareholders.

Atlantic Computer was marked 15p higher as City men look forward to its results next month, but leading stocks such as Plessey and STC lost pennies. Eames Lighting rose 15p to 255p ahead of today's results.

Newcomer of the day, Business Mortgage Trust was given a healthy reception, trading at 143p.

Hanson Trust was the main feature in an otherwise subdued trading session. Out of the total number of trades of 6,061, Hanson accounted for 726 contracts, while traditional favourite British Telecom chalked up total business of just 575 contracts. The short-dated gilt option made a relatively good showing, with 573 contracts changing hands, but there was little activity for the two currency facilities, the Dollar/Sterling option showing volume of 278 and the Dollar/Deutsche mark just 80 contracts. Prices showed no dramatic change.

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Atlantic Computer was marked 15p higher as City men look forward to its results next month, but leading stocks such as Plessey and STC lost pennies. Eames Lighting rose 15p to 255p ahead of today's results.

Newcomer of the day, Business Mortgage Trust was given a healthy reception, trading at 143p.

Hanson Trust was the main feature in an otherwise subdued trading session. Out of the total number of trades of 6,061, Hanson accounted for 726 contracts, while traditional favourite British Telecom chalked up total business of just 575 contracts. The short-dated gilt option made a relatively good showing, with 573 contracts changing hands, but there was little activity for the two currency facilities, the Dollar/Sterling option showing volume of 278 and the Dollar/Deutsche mark just 80 contracts. Prices showed no dramatic change.

Shares started the last leg of what has been a surprisingly strong long holiday account on a subdued note.

At the close the FT 30 share index was down 1.3 points at 990.1 points. The more broadly based FT-SE index finished at 1,310.8 points, down 2.7 points.

Trading was, once again, often down to the merest trickle. Interest rate hopes continued to help sentiment but worries about a possible rail strike kept a check on buying activity.

Distillers Co., the spirits group, was the outstanding FT index constituent. Its shares surged 15p to a 329p 1985 peak as rumours swirled of bid interest. There was evidence of American buying and talk that in the event of an offer the company would be worth more than 500p a share.

Arthur Bell & Sons, the DCL's smaller but aggressive

INDUSTRY TODAY

Floating water poses one of the Government's biggest challenges

By Jeremy Warner

Water seemed one of the more unlikely candidates for the Government in its search for suitable state-owned assets to privatise even a year ago.

Today, however, it is high on the list of potential targets and Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, is expected to announce before the end of October whether at least a part of the water industry will be opened up to private investors. With assets valued at £27 billion, it is a tempting prey.

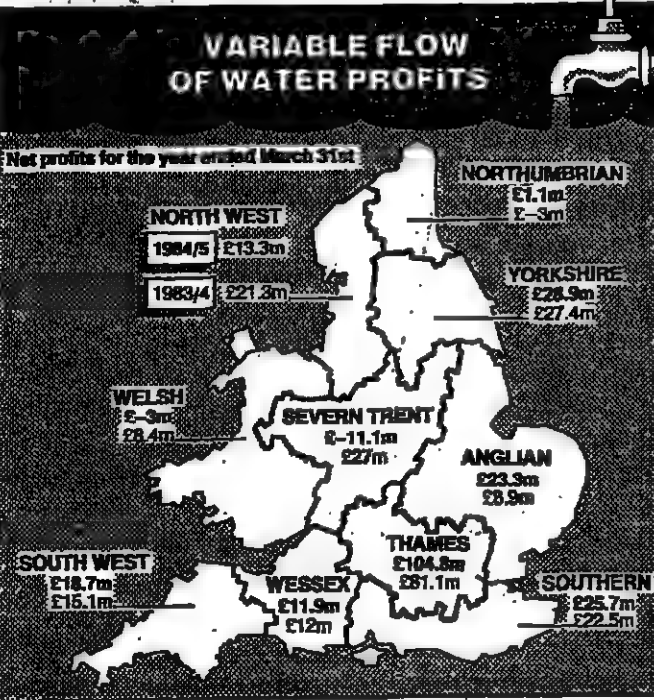
The Department of the Environment, helped by Schroders, the merchant banking group, has already completed its preliminary report on water privatization. It was in the nature of a discussion document, but is believed to have leaned towards the view that privatization of the industry over several years would be feasible, given the political will.

The aggressive campaign for a stock market flotation mounted by Mr Roy Watts, chairman of the Thames Water Authority, the largest and most prosperous of the 10 water authorities in England and Wales, has helped to bring about the change of heart.

Mr Watts' enthusiasm for privatization suggests it would be a simple process, good for Government, investors and consumers alike, and promoting capital spending on infrastructure. In reality, however, selling off the water industry presents one of the most difficult problems the Government has yet faced.

The provision of water, even under the present integrated structure whereby each of the 10 authorities has responsibility for the entire water cycle - from catchment through purification, distribution and sewage treatment, is in theory a perfectly viable commercial enterprise.

The infrastructure in some areas, however, requires some massive investment over the years that those water authorities would be well-nigh impossible to sell to investors



without some form of central or local government subsidy.

The campaign against privatization is being led by the North West Water Authority which takes in Liverpool, Manchester and Carlisle and which faces the most serious deterioration in the drainage and sewage systems of its main towns. The Government would have to pay the private sector to take that authority off its hands.

Privatization, the authority says, would mean higher charges because corporation tax and dividends would have to be paid in addition to financing day-to-day operations and capital spending.

Moreover, a strict commercial approach could lead to more local charges, with the result that improvements would have to be paid for locally or would not be done.

What chance has the campaign for cleaning up the Mersey Estuary or the strategy for dealing with underground depletion in a privatized authority, asks Mr George Mann, chairman of the North West.

At the other end of the spectrum are water authorities that are being used by the Government as much as possible. These would undoubtedly like privatization. Thames Water is one and Severn-Trent Water another.

Last year, the Government forced the authorities to raise water charges by 10 per cent. This was about seven per cent more than all the signs are that there will be similar disagreement over charges this year.

There are growing indications that the Thames authority will be joined in battle against the Government by other authorities over charges this year.

Severn-Trent Water, con-

would have to be discharged through that company.

They do not however provide much of a model for wider privatization in the industry. They tend to be financed mainly through fixed interest stocks, and where ordinary shares do exist, the companies are restricted in the amount of profit that can be paid out in dividends.

Moreover, charges have to be agreed with the relevant water authority and when their surpluses exceed a certain fixed amount, they have to be handed back to the consumer by the way of a reduction in charges the following year.

Indeed, private water companies are so hemmed in by restrictions that many of the benefits of the free market are lost to investors. Although there is some institutional demand for water debentures and preference shares, the Government would have to accept that only a fraction of the authorities' true asset value would be realized, if it privatized on this basis.

Regulation will be the trickiest part of any forthcoming privatization. Thames Water believes that existing government agencies such as the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission combined with some form of self-regulation, would be sufficient.

But it is doubtful that local authorities or environmental groups would be satisfied with such a loose regulatory structure.

Achieving the right balance between regulation and enterprise is going to be crucial in determining the Government's ability to sell successfully to the City what are, otherwise public utilities with little potential.

The Thames Water Authority is laying greater emphasis on areas which are not a public duty, such as recreational and transport services planned for the Thames, and overseas consultancy work.

However, the proportion of the authority's revenue that comes from sources other than the water rates is still minute. So Lazard Brothers, which has been retained to advise on the Thames, on any stock market float, will have to settle for the unglamorous rating that the stock market tends to afford such public services.

Any attempt to apply the Government's formula for selling some of the warship yards by combining in a single sale an attractive authority with a less attractive one, would further devalue the worth of the Thames Authority and other saleable parts of the industry.

There is no reason why the industry should not be sold off piecemeal leaving the unsaleable parts as a single sale to the West as part of the public sector. Messy though it is, it may prove the only viable way of privatizing water.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	11.75%
Adami & Company	11.75%
Barclays	11.75%
BCCI	11.75%
Citibank Savings	11.75%
Commercial Union	11.75%
Co-operative Bank	11.75%
C. Hoare & Co	11.75%
Lloyds Bank	11.75%
Midland Bank	11.75%
Nat Westminster	11.75%
TSB	11.75%
Williams & Glyn's	11.75%
Citibank NA	11.75%

* Mortgage Base Rate

TEMPUS

Talk of property split helps Taylor Woodrow

It is credit to Taylor Woodrow's wide spread of construction interests that profits rose from £13.1 million to £14.7 million before tax in the six months to June. This good result was achieved despite the effects of poor winter weather on the company's main subsidiary in South Africa.

Profits were also hit by the recent strength of sterling. Offsetting these unhelpful factors were increases from a number of areas, notably property.

The City's appreciation of this robust combination of activities partly explains the recovery in Taylor Woodrow's share price. In June the shares were hit by the company's decision to launch a £42 million rights issue, which analysts thought unnecessary. In the two months since, misreading the shares have risen to 453p.

This renewed popularity also reflects a widespread belief that Taylor Woodrow is about to float off its property interests. The company denies this strongly.

Taking the value attributed to the property portfolio in the last balance sheet, property is probably worth £185 million, allowing for a 30 per cent discount to assets. This is probably a very conservative figure - a thought that will no doubt bring double pleasure to Lord Taylor, the life president.

The construction operations are probably worth a further £180 million, assuming a multiple of eight. So together the two component parts should theoretically command a value of at least £365 million, £42 million or 60p a share more than the present market value. Even if the property side is not floated off the shares could justify a price of 500p.

The latest deal should reduce gearing to between 55 and 60 per cent and while significant acquisitions are unlikely this year Pleasurama seems set to boost its non-casino operations in 1986.

Samuelson Group

A little over a year ago the Samuelson Group was in the doldrums. An erratic trading performance, lacklustre management and an 80 per cent shareholding by the family had depressed the share price. City interest was minimal.

Yesterday the company unveiled an increase in pre-tax profits of 111.6 per cent; the shares climbed 15p to 270p as eager investors clamoured for the stock; and the chairman, Mr Sydney Samuelson, spoke confidently about further substantial growth.

By any standard, the Samuelson transformation is remarkable.

This is demonstrated by an analysis of the £2.9 million pre-tax profits for the year to March, reported yesterday. The traditional business of renting equipment to the British film industry doubled its profits to £1.3 million, at the same time the newer audio-visual presentation operations recorded a profit of £600,000 from virtually nothing a year ago.

Improved performances in both divisions have been achieved by more aggressive marketing, greater efficiency and a buoyant film, TV and presentations market.

Samuelson has established itself as the market leader in servicing corporate audio-visual presentations. It is one of the few companies to offer a one stop service and its company's acquisitions have been directed toward this area.

The shares have consistently outperformed the market in the last year and with institutions now eager to have a stake, they should continue to do so. The problem is finding the stock.

Pleasurama

Mr Stanley Grisstead, the chairman of Grand Metropolitan, will be feeling highly relieved to have finally shown Pleasurama the door of the two London casinos, the Ritz and the Casanova, in which both had an interest.

It can hardly have made life easy as one of the capital's biggest gaming concerns, trying to run a business with your main rival sitting round the same boardroom table nonchalantly wielding a 25 per cent share stake.

But the price Grand Metropolitan has been forced to pay for complete control - £23.5 million, or £10 million in excess of the book value - looks very high bearing in mind that one of the clubs, the Casanova, was actually making a loss at the end of the half-year.

Mr George Martin, the managing director of Pleasurama, could scarcely contain his joy yesterday over the terms of the deal. He has held Grand Metropolitan at bay for so long and has succeeded in selling out just when the profits of the two casinos appear to have struck a rock.

In the year to September 1984 the Ritz and the Casanova earned £9.6 million of which a quarter went to Pleasurama. In the current half-year to June Pleasurama's share was down to just £762,000, nearly all of that came from the Ritz.

Pleasurama also reported six months' figures yesterday of £16 million, taking in four months' contribution from Trident, but because of changed accounting periods it is difficult to make comparisons. But the enlarged casino division has traded well above expectations, particularly Maxima, while the 17 casinos in the provinces have benefited from refurbishment.

Amusement machines are something like 30 per cent up, largely due to improved internal controls. The underlying trend, however, may not be too buoyant. The other components of the leisure pack, hotels and holidays, are doing well but the amusement arcades are suffering from an indifferent summer season.

COMPANY NEWS

- **KCA DRILLING GROUP:** A partnership between KCA (which will have 60 per cent) and a subsidiary of Fenix (40 per cent) to buy the STC Petro jack-up drilling rig from Meniscus Shipping, a subsidiary of Fenix, for £24.2 million.
- **SURPRISE FASHION STORES:** A group of investors led by Brown Gold & Co. has subscribed for £850,000 of new capital in Surprise Fashion Stores, which was founded in 1983 by two former executives from the Burton Group, Messrs Barry Gibson and Brian Collier.
- **KLP GROUP:** KLP is to buy Odham's Leisure Group a direct marketing company.
- **JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY:** The results for the year to June 30 with figures in million rands (£270,270) show a profit before taxation of 176.1 (£144.4) and profit attributable to the group's shareholders at 149.1 (£123.7).
- **MEZZANINE CAPITAL CORPORATION:** The corporation has announced two new investments, totalling \$14.6 million (£10.46 million) and the realisation of its investment in Foarmex products. It invested \$5.29 million in Gulf and Mississippi Railroad Corporation.
- **HUMBERSIDE ELECTRONIC CONTROLS:** The company says it is enjoying record orders, with a book value of £1,300,000. It boosted operating profit from £137,000 to £216,000 during the past year with earnings per share rising from 0.54p to 0.84p.
- **FITCH & CO:** Fenix has appointed Fitch & Co design consultants, to redesign Dillons Bookshop as part of a £1 million investment in rebuilding the group's flagship Gower Street Store.
- **HARVEY & THOMPSON:** The company has raised pre-tax profit from £404,000 to £445,090 during the past year; it is to move into the private detective business after signing an acquisition deal. Turnover has gone up from £1,332,000 to £1,488,000, although a higher tax charge reduced earnings per share from 9.37p to 8.5p.
- **GOPING:** Results for six months to June 30, interim dividend 10 Malay cents. (Figures in Malay \$000). Turnover (18,381). Pre-tax profit 5,876 (£5,951). Tax 3,229 (£3,378). Shares 95p unchanged.
- **SANDVIK:** (Figures in Swedish Krona millions). Invoiced sales £279,551 for the first half of 1985.
- **COSTS OF PRODUCTION, SALES AND ADMINISTRATION 5113 (4601).** Financial earnings and expenses, net 135 (183). Non-current earnings and expenses 3 (2). Profit before appropriations and taxes 854 (463).
- **GENERAL FUNDS INVESTMENT TRUST:** For six months to July 15. Gross revenue £775,320 (£661,294). Expenses and interest £238,915 (£240,512). Pre-tax profit £536,405 (£370,782). Tax £176,548 (£124,964). Asset value per ordinary share 134.4p (147.23p as on January 13).
- **JUSTI SCOTTISH AMERICAN TRUST:** Half-year interim (2p) to reduce disparity between payments. Revenue, after charges and tax, £1,810,177 (£1,059,164).
- **RICHARDS (LEICESTER):** Half-year to June 30. Figures in £000. Turnover, 3,886 (3,158). Pre-tax profit, 144 (loss, 197).

Hongkong Bank

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability

1985 Interim Results

The Directors announce that the unaudited profit for the six months ended 30 June 1985 attributable to the shareholders of the Bank was HK\$1,109 million (1984: HK\$1,017 million), an increase of 9%. The profit was arrived at after providing for taxation and after making transfers to inner reserves.

The Directors have declared an interim dividend of HK\$0.15 per share (1984: HK\$0.136 adjusted), an increase of 10%. The dividend will be payable on 4 October 1985 to shareholders whose names are on the Register of Shareholders on 20 September 1985.

Consolidated Profit and Loss Statement - (unaudited)

6 months to 30 June 1984		6 months to 30 June 1985	
HK\$	£m	HK\$	£m
1,313	124	1,474	145
(296)	(28)	(365)	(36)
1,017	96	1,109	109
(83)	(8)	(61)	(6)
(429)	(40)	(472)	(46)
505	48	576	57
HK\$0.32 (adjusted)	£0.03 (adjusted)	HK\$0.35	£0.034
HK\$0.136 (adjusted)	£0.013 (adjusted)	HK\$0.15	£0.015
Consolidated Balance Sheet details 31 December 1984 (audited)		30 June 1985 (unaudited)	
HK\$	£m	HK\$	£m
481,607	52,994	507,872	49,992
20,863	2,296	21,467	2,113
Total Assets		Total Assets	
Shareholders' Funds		Shareholders' Funds	

Prospects for the rest of 1985

In Hong Kong the Sino-British agreement on the territory's future headlined a marked improvement in the business climate during the first half. A firm exchange rate, accompanied by a steady fall in domestic interest rates, was reflected in a strong upward movement in the stock market and recovery in the property sector. Although exports did not match the dramatic increase in 1984, the overall outlook remains favourable and it is expected that both domestic investment and trade with China will continue to expand.

In other territories in which the Group operates, conditions during the first half were less satisfactory. South East Asia generally continues to suffer from low commodity prices and stagnant growth rates in major world markets. In the

Middle East falling oil prices and production levels have brought about difficult trading conditions.

The economies of the territories in which we operate will continue to be affected by the downturn in the United States economy. If official forecasts for United States economic recovery during the second half prove to be accurate, the improvement in the trend of Group earnings should continue; but the US budget and trade deficits, combined with the looming spectre of trade protectionism, are grounds for considerable concern. The Directors nevertheless believe that profitability will continue at a satisfactory level and expect to recommend a final dividend of not less than HK\$0.31 per share.

Closing of Register of Shareholders

The Register of Shareholders will be closed from 9 September until 20 September 1985 (both dates inclusive). In order to qualify for the interim dividend, all transfers (accompanied by the relevant share certificates) must be lodged with the Registrars not later than 4.00 p.m. on 6 September 1985.

By Order of the Board, F.R. Frame, Secretary.

Hong Kong, 27 August 1985.

—

FOURTH DIVISION: Burnley 1, Port Vale 2; Preston North End 2, Tranmere Rovers 2; Rochdale 4, Stockport County 1.

GOLA LEAGUE: Barrow 2, Frickley 2; Boston United 1, Clifton 1; Kidderminster 0, Nuneaton 2; Weymouth 4, Chesham 0.

Oak 1, Rushden 4; Redditch 1, Leamington 1; Welbourn 0, Rotherham 0.

FA CUP: Preliminary Round replay: Colne Hornsman 0 (aet).

REPOLEBY SENIOR CUP: 1984-85: Ryeholme 1, Wealdstone 3.

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OVERSEAS PROPERTY



The Atlantic coast opens up

By Diana Wildman

These prices exclude the land but include a fully fitted kitchen complete with fridge-freezer, washing machine and dishwasher, basic garden landscaping and full insurance cover until the work is completed.

David Vaughan, of Chestertons Overseas, says: "Of course, a house can be designed to the client's specification, and for this purpose there is an expert team of architects available. But for anyone choosing from our standard plans, a house will be ready within six to eight months."

Details: Chestertons Overseas, 116 Kensington High Street, London W8 7RW (01-937 7244).

Roche is some 26 miles south of Jerez de la Frontera in the heart of Spain's sherry-producing vineyards, and for the individualist keen to own his own small vineyard Fincasol Ltd is marketing Cerro Nuevo, an imposing nine-bedroom whitewashed house built in the 19th century and designed by the French architect Charles Garnier, who was responsible for the Paris Opera House built around 1861.

Cerro Nuevo is built on a square around a patio in typical Andalusian style in the middle of the 75-acre estate. As with so many large Andalusian houses built in the last century, the ground floor consists of a number of reception rooms grouped around two enclosed patios and, again a common feature of the 19th century, there is a private chapel.

The asking price of £250,000, which the agents stress is negotiable, includes most of the furniture and the mature vineyard, which produces the right quality wines essential for sherry production.

Details: Fincasol Ltd, 4 Bridge Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2LX (0722 26444), or Fincasol SA, Cortijo Los Canos, Sotogrande, Cadiz, Spain (956 79 28 11).

Tenerife's popularity comes not least, because it is washed by the Atlantic, although it is at the same latitude as the Sahara Desert, and it is of course Spanish.

With its all-year-round summer climate its potential is higher for investors wishing to both holiday there and derive a steady rental income as well.

The climate in the south of the island is continually hot and dry which makes for rather bleak landscape but increasingly improving irrigation techniques add a great deal to the landscaping of many private leisure property developments in the region.

One development under construction on Tenerife's southern coastline is Sueno Azul which will eventually consist of 283 villas and 270 apartments all set on a slightly sloping site leading down to a 400-metre stretch of coastline.

The show houses are complete and phase one of Sueno Azul is due for completion at the end of December.

House can be designed to a client's specification

about an hour's drive from the airport - a far cry from the four-hour haul from Malaga. Then the only other possibility required stopovers at Madrid for British flights bound for either Seville or Jerez.

The 5,000-acre Roche Estate, 75 miles from Gibraltar and 20 miles east of Cadiz, has very little building so far, although the complete infrastructure is laid out.

Chestertons Overseas is now selling building plots from around £8,000 to £15,000 depending on size and location, which are scattered within the pine trees of the estate.

Chestertons has available six standard villa plans ranging in price from a two-bedroom bungalow with one bathroom for £29,000, and a three-bedroom two-bathroom home for £41,500, to a four-bedroom or five-bedroom house with three bathrooms for between £51,000 and £54,000.

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3002-3003, 3004-3005, 3006-3007, 3008-3009, 3010-3011, 3012-3013, 3014-3015, 3016-3017, 3018-3019, 3020-3021, 3022-3023, 3024-3025, 3026-3027, 3028-3029, 3030-3031, 3032-3033, 3034-3035, 3036-3037, 3038-3039, 3040-3041, 3042-3043, 3044-3045, 3046-3047, 3048-3049, 3050-3051, 3052-3053, 3054-3055, 3056-3057, 3058-3059, 3060-3061, 3062-3063, 3064-3065, 3066-3067, 3068-3069, 3070-3071, 3072-3073, 3074-3075, 3076-3077, 3078-3079, 3080-3081, 3082-3083, 3084-3085, 3086-3087, 3088-3089, 3090-3091, 3092-3093, 3094-3095, 3096-3097, 3098-3099, 3100-3101, 3102-3103, 3104-3105, 3106-3107, 3108-3109, 3110-3111, 3112-3113, 3114-3115, 3116-3117, 3118-3119, 3120-3121, 3122-3123, 3124-3125, 3126-3127, 3128-3129, 3130-3131, 3132-3133, 3134-3135, 3136-3137, 3138-3139, 3140-3141, 3142-3143, 3144-3145, 3146-3147, 3148-3149, 3150-3151, 3152-3153, 3154-3155, 3156-3157, 3158-3159, 3160-3161, 3162-3163, 3164-3165, 3166-3167, 3168-3169, 3170-3171, 3172-3173, 3174-3175, 3176-3177, 3178-3179, 3180-3181, 3182-3183, 3184-3185, 3186-3187, 3188-3189, 3190-3191, 3192-3193, 3194-3195, 3196-3197, 3198

Gas leak blow to Union Carbide

From Trevor Fishlock
New York

An investigation has started into another leak at a Union Carbide chemical plant in West Virginia. This time a cloud of toxic hydrogen chloride escaped from the company's plant in South Charleston, in the Kanawha valley.

Sirens sounded and a cloud of white vapour rose as emergency crews doused the plant with water yesterday. The gas stayed in the plant area, no one was reported hurt, and there was no evacuation.

The incident, following the catastrophic leak at Bhopal last year and other leaks in West Virginia this year, is another blow for Union Carbide and puts pressure on the company and the chemical industry at large to improve safety systems. Industry specialists are concerned that many plants are inadequately protected against leaks of toxic materials and that safety gets low priority in training chemical engineers.

Last December more than 2,000 people were killed by gas leaking from the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal. The company has spent \$5 million (£3.5 million) improving safety at the plant in Institute, West Virginia, 60 miles from South Charleston.

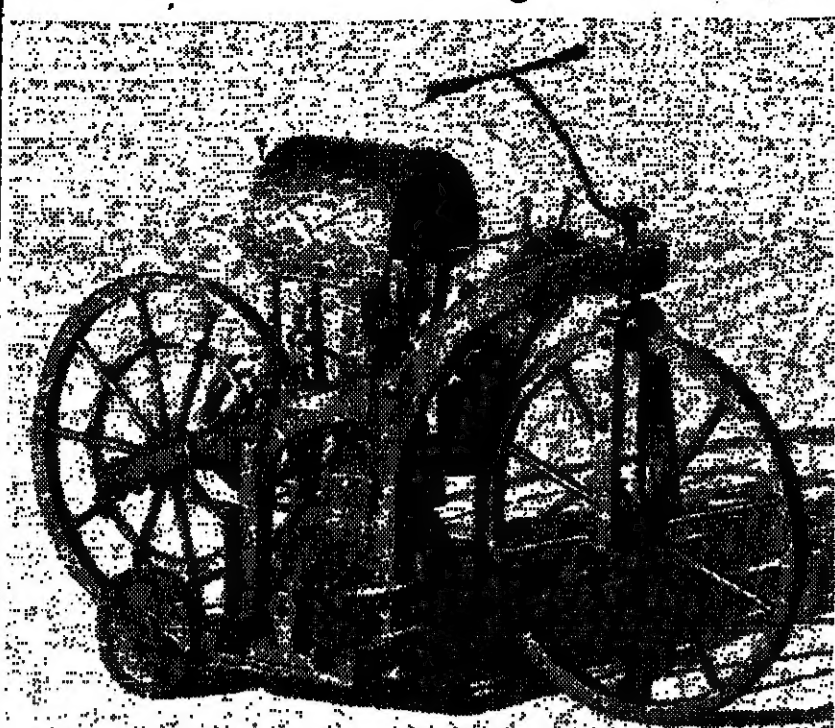
But on August 11, a leak of toxic chemicals at Institute sent 135 people to hospital.

Union Carbide's own report reveals that, for 10 days before the incident, steam flowed from leaking valves into a storage tank of toxic chemicals and no one noticed. Safety checks were not made, a computer was programmed incorrectly, a pump did not work and a vital meter was broken. Pressure in a tank built up dangerously until gas leaked out.

Union Carbide's president says the company has earmarked \$50 million "to redouble our efforts to clean up our act".

There was a leak of non-toxic, though foul-smelling, gas at the South Charleston plant on August 13.

The motorcycle roars into its 100th year



Gottlieb Daimler's 'riding car' (left), aged 100 this week, spawned a new breed of vehicle, whose latest offspring is this 130mph BMW

By Alan Hamilton
The contraption on the left is one of Herr Gottlieb Daimler's early try-outs on his way to inventing the Mercedes car.

It does not look the sort of device that, mounted by a leather-clad Adonis with blond locks streaming in the wind, would turn an impressionable young lady's head. But it is, in fact, the world's first two-wheeled motorcycle, and it is celebrating its centenary this week.

Having developed, in collaboration

with his partner, Wilhelm Maybach, one of the first effective internal combustion engines, Daimler cast around for something to put it in. The obvious choice was a bicycle, and Daimler named it a "riding car". It was majestically slow and supremely safe. Even with a following wind, there was no chance of it ever travelling fast enough to kill anyone.

The riding car's patent was granted to Daimler at Bad Cannstatt, Germany, on August 29, 1885. Its 0.264 litre

engine delivered a miserly 0.5 horsepower at 600 rpm and, with its back on padded leather saddle, was strictly for solo riding.

Daimler went on to install his engines, with great success, in a horse-drawn carriage, and finally in an automobile. The concept of a bicycle with a motor remained something of a curiosity until it was taken up enthusiastically by all combatants as a useful means of despatch transport in the First World War.

Germany is still the home of excellent and powerful motorcycles, but the once-flourishing British industry has collapsed under the weight of Japanese invasion. A pity, as the world's first motorcycle was actually built by an Englishman, Edward Butler, a year before Daimler was granted his patent.

Butler's machine, which never caught on, was a three-wheeler. The Japanese make them now, of course, and export them to Britain.

Noise-crazed city shrouded in smog

Mexico City is the largest, noisiest, most polluted, and, according to a United Nations report, most demoralising metropolis in the Western world. Apparently things have been like this since before Cortes defeated Montezuma.

A poem written before the Spanish conquest bemoans lost glory, describing the capital of the Aztec empire as a noise-crazed city shrouded in a fog of smoke.

The thickness of the air at more than 7,000ft, combined with a virtual absence of winds in a city encircled by mountains, means that smoke not only barely rises, it also refuses to be swept away.

This may have been a problem for the Aztecs, with their primitive fires. But today, with 130,000 factories and 2.5 million motor vehicles belching out daily 11,000 tons of lead, sulphur, carbon monoxide and other gases, we have, hovering visibly over the city, what a group of outraged Mexican intellectuals has described as "a viscous mushroom".

Half the 14,000 tons of rubbish the city generates every day is never picked up by the under-equipped municipal authorities. It is left to rot on street corners or vacant lots. The rest is disposed of in vast, eternally smouldering open-air dumps. These spawn tuberculosis and typhoid bacteria which neither the elderly nor the city's many undernourished children have the defences to combat.

According to the Mexican Health Ministry, one sixth of children under 15 years old in Mexico City suffer respiratory illnesses. About 150,000 children die every year because of the contaminated air.

All doctors agree that respiratory infections, unspecified viral diseases and gastro-intestinal complaints have risen at what one called "a brutal rate" due to the pollution. Cancer of the lung, mouth, throat, a specialist said, is also increasing, and for the same reason.

Studies have shown that breathing the air is equivalent to smoking two packets of cigarettes a day, in the worst parts of town, three packets.

John Carlin

Coup ousts Nigeria's president

Continued from page 1

must be taken. This is precisely what we have done," he said.

Noting that the Buhari government had dissipated the popularity which greeted the coup which brought it to power in December 1983, he accused it of misuse of power, lack of action and unity and waste of the country's resources.

All airports, ports and border points were closed and telecommunications links were severed throughout yesterday. A dusk-to-dawn curfew was declared in Lagos and other major cities.

There were no reports of unrest or indications of support for the ousted leader.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that the large British community in Nigeria was believed to be safe and in no danger. Over 11,000 Britons are

registered with the British High Commission in Nigeria, but the actual number of Britons there is believed to be considerably higher.

Yesterday's coup came at a time when relationships between London and Lagos were beginning to recover from the strain caused by the Nigerian authorities' attempt to kidnap Mr Umaru Dikko, a former transport minister, from Britain in July last year.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary, is due to pay a two-day official visit to Nigeria on September 9, but it was unclear last night whether the visit would go ahead as planned.

The British government is anxious to see a return to good relations with Nigeria which is one of Britain's major trading partners and the recipient of

over £2 billion in British investment.

General Babangida, aged 44, is well known to British officials. He underwent military training in Britain and has been involved in all of the military regimes that have held power since the country's first post-independence civilian government was overthrown in 1966.

General Babangida is believed to have masterminded the coup which brought General Buhari to power 20 months ago. He became a hero to his soldiers in 1976 when, alone and unarmed, he walked into a radio station and persuaded army officers who had taken it over in a failed coup attempt to surrender peacefully.

Yesterday's coup was the sixth in Nigeria's history.

Military rivalries, page 6
Leading article, page 11

France orders inquiry on French spy work

Continued from page 1

for the counter-espionage service, to submit a detailed annual report to Parliament on the operation of their respective intelligence services.

Nowhere in M Fabius' statement yesterday was there any hint of the apology asked for by Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, for France's undercover operations in his country. Nor was there any indication that France would be prepared to extradite the three French secret service agents for whom New Zealand has issued an international arrest warrant.

Two French agents are already in prison in New Zealand awaiting trial on charges of murder in connection with the sinking of the Rainbow

Warrior. Three others being sought by the New Zealand authorities were crew members of the Ouvea, the boat which left New Zealand on the eve of the attack on the Rainbow Warrior and which was subsequently abandoned off the coast of Australia by its crew, all members of the DGSE underwater combat unit.

M Fabius yesterday called on the New Zealand authorities to pass on to the French legal authorities all information concerning the affair. If it appeared that there had been criminal acts, legal proceedings would immediately be instituted, he said, with a clear hint that those proceedings would be in France rather than New Zealand.

Trio's failure, page 5
Leading article, page 11

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, attends the Award ceremony, Parliament Hall, Edinburgh, 5.30; and later takes the Salute at the Edinburgh Tattoo, 9.

Exhibitions in progress

Contemporary Canadian Quilts (until Sept 21), Furniture and Mirrors: work by Toby Winteringham and David Colwell (until Sept 19), Oriol 31, 31 High St, Walslop, Powys; Mon to Sat 11 to 5.
Andersonian Naturalists' Century: Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Sept 30).
Ancient Petroglyphs: Prehistoric art of neolithic and picture cultures

from two continents; The Plesance Gallery, 60 The Plesance, Edinburgh 11 to 6 daily (until Aug 31).
Welsh industry in art: Welsh Industrial and Maritime Museum, Bute St, Cardiff; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (ends Sept 30).
Sound sculptures by Peter Appleton, Maplin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield; Mon to Sat 10 to 8, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Aug 31).
Images of China 1908 to 1912: photographs by Henry Laver, Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Rd, Oxford; Mon to Sat 2 to 4 (until end of 1985).

Lamp-lighter and story-teller: John Francis Campbell of Ilay; National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5; Sat 9.30 to 1, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Sept 27).
Decorative pots: work by six potters; Long Street Gallery, 50 Long St, Tisbury, Wilt; Mon to Wed 10 to 1 and 2 to 5.30, Fri 10 to 5 (ends Sept 27).

Paintings and drawings by Julie Wynn Roberts; Walsall Museum, Central Library, Lichfield Street, 10 to 6.
Paintings by Felix Anaut; Oriel Gallery, 69a St Victoria St, Belfast, 11 to 5.30.

Music

Concert by the Choir of Emmanuel, Scot., Wandsworth; Old Walsall Priory Church, N York; 7.30.
Bath Georgian Festival: Summer Festival: Work by Mozart, Vivaldi, Handel and Haydn by the Somerset Chamber Orchestra; Pump Room, Bath, 8.
Recital by David Pizarro, St Stephen's Church, 360 Bath St, Glasgow, 7.30.

Organ recital by Joanna Fraser and Frank Fowler; St Andrew's Church, Colyton, E Devon, 8.
Concert by the Choir of Leeds Parish Church; St Mary's Church, Newark, Cheshire, 8.
Organ recital by Colin Walsh; Norwich Cathedral, 8.

National Association of Youth Orchestras: Concert by the Perth Youth Orchestra; Central Hall, Tollymore, Edinburgh, 8.30 and 7.30.
Concert by the Choir of King Edward VI School, Southampton; St Giles Parish Church, Elgin, Scotland, 7.30.

Talks, lectures

Edinburgh Festival: Yves Michaux (in French); French Institute, 13 Randolph Crescent, Edinburgh, 8.
Contemporary ceramics II: Bernard Leach - Tradition and Myth, by Oliver Watson; Kenley's Yard, Castle St, Cambridge, 10.30.

General International Festival Book Fair: Adam House, Edinburgh, 10 to 6.30 (until Aug 31).
Malmesbury Carnival Week: details from: Tourist Office, Town Hall, Malmesbury, Wilt.

Wildlife Act

The Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Act 1985, which received Royal Assent on June 26, came into force yesterday.

The Act makes four major changes. It increases protection for badgers, and it closes the so-called "three month loophole" during which sites of special scientific interest were not protected against potentially damaging operations; the scope of maps of areas of particular conservation importance within national parks is widened; and it gives the Forestry Commission a duty to endeavour to achieve a reasonable balance between the development of forestry and conservation.

The pound

Bank of England
Sterling 2.07 1.87
Australia 2.07 1.87
Belgium 2.07 1.87
Canada 1.38 1.28
Denmark 14.80 13.80
France 12.23 11.23
Germany 14.80 13.80
Hong Kong 1.00 0.90
Italy 1.36 1.26
Japan 14.80 13.80
Netherlands 14.80 13.80
Portugal 204.00 194.00
Spain 166.00 156.00
Sweden 14.80 13.80
Switzerland 1.36 1.26
USA 1.48 1.38
Yugoslavia 14.80 13.80

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency transactions.
Retail prices below 375.7.
London: The FT index closed down 1.5 at 390.1.

New books - hardback

The Deputy Library Editor's selection of interesting books published this week

Sweetness and Power: the place of sugar in modern society, by Sidney W. Mintz (Viking, £14.95)
The Sex and War, Changing Values 1898-45, by John Costello (Collins, £9.95)
Slaves-Murder on the Common, by Andrew Ross (Bodley Head, £9.95)
Memoir of Frances, Lady Douglas, by Lady Louisa Stuart (SAP, £9.50)
Diary of My Songs, by Francis Poulenc (Collins, £9.95)
The Letters of John Galsworthy, 1889-1933, by John Galsworthy (Macmillan, £25)
Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, by H. E. Warren (Viking, £12.95)
Larkin - A Poetical Life, by Robert Service (Macmillan, £25)
The Fruit Pies, by Charles Nichols (Heinemann, £9.95)
The Letters of Gwendolyn Cleop, compiled and edited by Guy Kattelson (Century, £7.95)

Roads

London and South-east: A307: Sever construction in Kew Rd, Richmond, at junction with A316 Lower Mortlake Rd, M4. New westbound carriageway at junction 4 (Uxbridge/Heathrow) comes into use at 6 am. A21: Motorway construction work on Sevenoaks by-pass; contraflow.

The Midlands: M6: Southbound slip road to the M6 at junction 5 (West Bromwich) is closed to traffic at various times; diversions via A425, B4114 Birmingham Rd and A446 Stonebridge Rd. A38: Contraflow from August 31st on A1665, Derbyshire, between Bristol and Bath, Avon. A38: Lane closures on the westbound carriageway at Marsh Mill roundabout, near Plympton, Devon, between 9 am and 4 pm (Mon to Thurs).

Wales and West: M5: Two lanes closed southbound between junctions 25 (Taunton) and 26 (Wells). A431: Temporary contraflow on the westbound carriageway at junction 4, between Bristol and Bath, Avon. A38: Lane closures on the westbound carriageway at Marsh Mill roundabout, near Plympton, Devon, between 9 am and 4 pm (Mon to Thurs).

The North: M62: Repairs and resurfacing between junctions 18 and 19 (Greater Manchester), either side of Birch services; contraflow. M63/M62/M66: Eccles Interchange, Greater Manchester. Lane restrictions north of Barton Bridge: no access from M 63 northbound to M62 westbound. A638: Construction of dual carriageway on Bawtry Rd, Doncaster, near the racecourse.

Southeast: M1: Northbound carriageway closed N of junction 9 (Sturton turnoff); traffic sharing southbound carriageway. M74: Contraflow between junctions 2 (A71) and (A74) Strathclyde. A82: Single lane traffic E of Glen Clova, Inverness-shire, with Stop/Go boards.

Information supplied by the AA.

Portfolio

Portfolio - how to play
Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio
Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total
If your total matches the published weekly total, you have won outright or a share of the prize money stated for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim
Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0254-52272 between 10 am and 3.30 pm on the day your overall total matches the Times Portfolio total. No claim can be accepted outside these hours.
You must have your card with you when you telephone.
If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times.
No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stipulated times.
The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.
Some Times Portfolio cards include minor variations in the instructions on the reverse side. The Game card is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

Anniversaries

Birth: Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Frankfurt am Main, 1749; Count Leo Tolstoy (new style Sept 9).
Deaths: Yevgeny Polonsky, Russia, 1828; Sir Edward Burnes-Jones, painter, Birmingham, 1833; George William, King of Hanover, 1837; Lord Curzon, 1917; Peter Fraser, Prime Minister of New Zealand, 1940-49; Fearn, Ross and Cromarty, 1884.

Death: Leigh Hunt, London, 1859.

Today is the Feast of Saint Augustine, bishop of Hippo, one of the four Latin Fathers. He was born of a pagan father and Christian mother - Saint Monica. His writings, *Confessions*, *De Trinitate* and *De Civitate Dei* are among the most influential in Christian thinking. He died at Hippo (Bone) 430.

Weather forecast

A trough of low pressure will move SE over England and Wales.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S England: Mostly dry, sunny intervals; wind S or SW light to moderate; max temp 24C (75F).
Central islands, SW England: Mostly dry, sunny intervals; coastal fog patches; wind S or SW light to moderate; max temp 22C (72F); cooler on coasts.
East Anglia, Midlands: Rather cloudy, a little light rain or drizzle later; wind S or SW moderate; max temp 21C (70F).
E, central N, NE England: Rather cloudy, rain clearing later; wind S or SW moderate or fresh; max temp 19C (66F).
Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Cloudy with rain, heavy at times, clearing later; also hill and coastal fog; wind S or SW moderate; max temp 18C (64F).
North Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Northern Ireland: Showers or longer periods of rain, hill fog, also some bright intervals; wind S or SW strong with gales in exposed places; max temp 16C (61F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Showers in the N, mostly dry in the S; temperatures near or a little above normal.

SEA PASSAGES: North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E) Wind SW moderate to fresh; sea choppy; visibility moderate or good; sea slight to moderate. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S or SW strong to gale becoming W light to moderate; rain clearing; visibility poor with fog banks becoming good; sea very rough becoming moderate.

Full Moon: August 30.

Lighting-up time

London 8.20 pm to 5.30 am
Sheffield 8.20 pm to 5.40 am
Edinburgh 8.40 pm to 5.40 am
Manchester 8.40 pm to 5.40 am
Penzance 8.40 pm to 5.40 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud, 4, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100.

Alternative centre

The National Centre for Alternative Technology, which advises on (and exemplifies in the village it has established near Machynlleth) energy saving, self-sufficiency and a variety of "post-industrial" skills and techniques, is celebrating the tenth anniversary of its founding with a 40-page booklet explaining its aims, achievements and services. The centre is open to the public from 10 am to 5 pm every day and offers a newsletter, mail-order book service and short residential courses on solar energy, wind and water power, organic gardening, blacksmithing, vegetarian cooking and the like. *Ten years at the Quay: A Short history of the Centre for Alternative Technology* is £1.18 (inc. p&p) from the Centre at Llynwern Quarry, Machynlleth, Powys, Wales.

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London

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 8 pm, 26C (79F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 11C (52F). Humidity: 65%. Wind: SE, 10 to 15 mph. Rain: 0.0 in. Sun: 10.23 am to 5.03 pm. 1,023.5 mbars following. 1,000 mbars = 29.92 in.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day: Saint Martin, Guernsey, 22C (72F); lowest day: Lerwick, 12C (54F). Highest night: Traw, 12.5C; lowest night: Jersey, 13.2C.

Concise crossword page 8

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Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Showers in the N, mostly dry in the S; temperatures near or a little above normal.

SEA PASSAGES: North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E) Wind SW moderate to fresh; sea choppy; visibility moderate or good; sea slight to moderate. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S or SW strong to gale becoming W light to moderate; rain clearing; visibility poor with fog banks becoming good; sea very rough becoming moderate.

Full Moon: August 30.

Lighting-up time

London 8.20 pm to 5.30 am
Sheffield 8.20 pm to 5.40 am
Edinburgh 8.40 pm to 5.40 am
Manchester 8.40 pm to 5.40 am
Penzance 8.40 pm to 5.40 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud, 4, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100.

Alternative centre

The National Centre for Alternative Technology, which advises on (and exemplifies in the village it has established near Machynlleth) energy saving, self-sufficiency and a variety of "post-industrial" skills and techniques, is celebrating the tenth anniversary of its founding with a 40-page booklet explaining its aims, achievements and services. The centre is open to the public from 10 am to 5 pm every day and offers a newsletter, mail-order book service and short residential courses on solar energy, wind and water power, organic gardening, blacksmithing, vegetarian cooking and the like. *Ten years at the Quay: A Short history of the Centre for Alternative Technology* is £1.18 (inc. p&p) from the Centre at Llynwern Quarry, Machynlleth, Powys, Wales.

Anniversaries

Birth: Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Frankfurt am Main, 1749; Count Leo Tolstoy (new style Sept 9).
Deaths: Yevgeny Polonsky, Russia, 1828; Sir Edward Burnes-Jones, painter, Birmingham, 1833; George William, King of Hanover, 1837; Lord Curzon, 1917; Peter Fraser, Prime Minister of New Zealand, 1940-49; Fearn, Ross and Cromarty, 1884.

Death: Leigh Hunt, London, 1859.

Today is the Feast of Saint Augustine, bishop of Hippo, one of the four Latin Fathers. He was born of a pagan father and Christian mother - Saint Monica. His writings, *Confessions*, *De Trinitate* and *De Civitate Dei* are among the most influential in Christian thinking. He died at Hippo (Bone) 430.

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 8 pm, 26C (79F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 11C (52F). Humidity: 65%. Wind: SE, 10 to 15 mph. Rain: 0.0 in. Sun: 10.23 am to 5.03 pm. 1,023.5 mbars following. 1,000 mbars = 29.92 in.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day: Saint Martin, Guernsey, 22C (72F); lowest day: Lerwick, 12C (54F). Highest night: Traw, 12.5C; lowest night: Jersey, 13.2C.

Letter from Mexico City

Mexico City is the largest, noisiest, most polluted, and, according to a United Nations report, most demoralising metropolis in the Western world. Apparently things have been like this since before Cortes defeated Montezuma.

A poem written before the Spanish conquest bemoans lost glory, describing the capital of the Aztec empire as a noise-crazed city shrouded in a fog of smoke.

The thickness